Malacañang clears Mike in Naia 3 controversy

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 4

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, September 10, 2002 ★★ 40 pages / 3 sections / vol.17 / no. 274 P15

RP allows US use of air space in war on Iraq

By Norman Bordadora and Cynthia D. Balana

ALTHOUGH there is no official request yet from the United States, the Philippines has given the superpower the green light to use Philippine air space in connection with military operations against Iraq.

"This is part of the global fight against terrorism in which we are taking part," Foreign Secretary Blas Ople yesterday said.

Ople issued the statement as the Department of Foreign Affairs raised an Alert Level 2 for Filipinos in Iraq.

"This means that Filipinos should stay indoors and restrict their movements in the area," Foreign Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin said. The foreign office listed 117 Filipinos in Iraq.

Ople said the country was not endorsing any war, "but we are an ally of

RP/A16

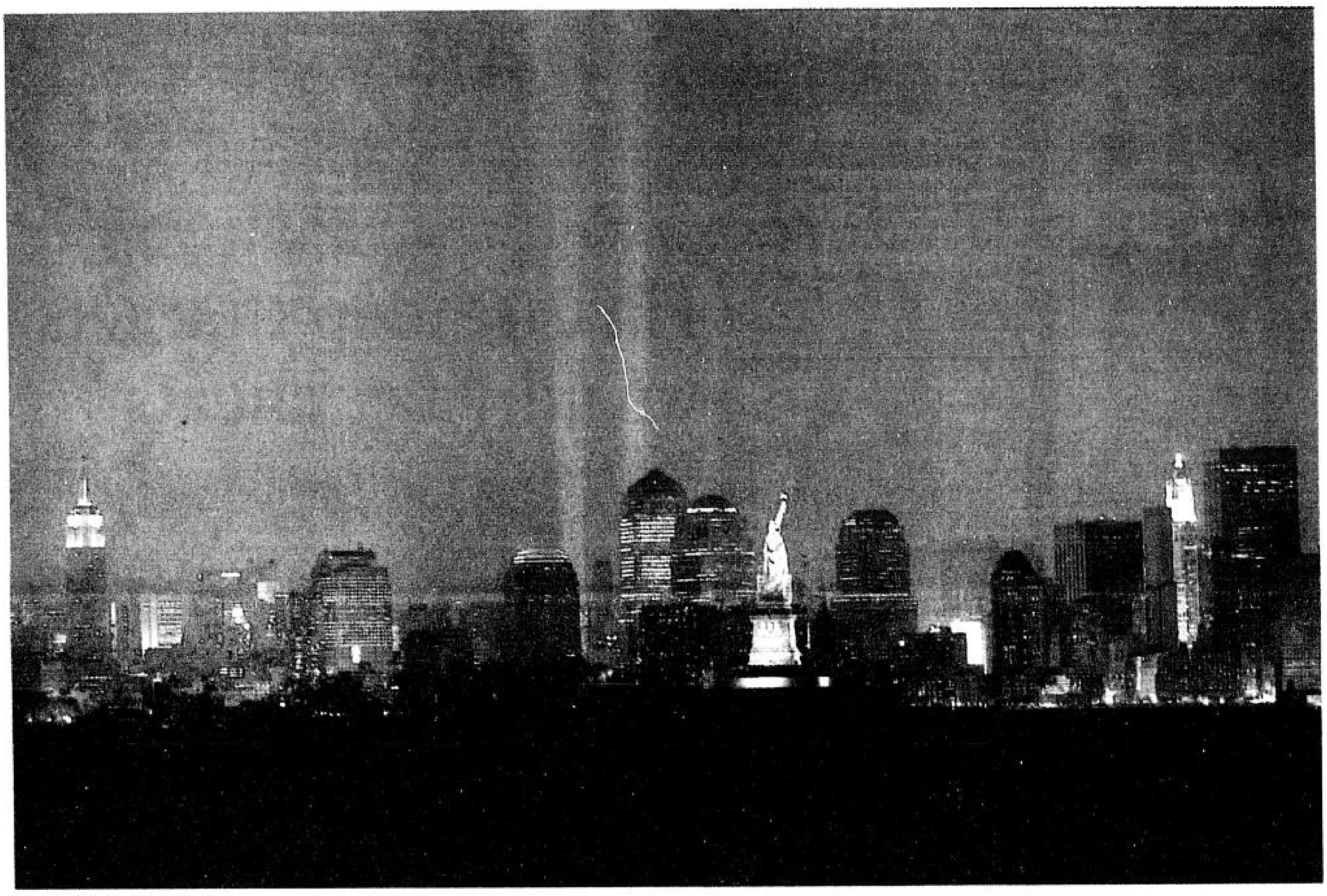
3 more battalions sent to pursue Abu bandits

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A Marine brigade from General Santos City will be deployed to Sulu tomorrow to help government forces go after Abu Sayyaf bandits, Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, Southern Command chief, said yesterday.

3 MORE/A15

Al-Qaida bomb plot in Manila exposed



TOWERS OF LIGHT

Six months after the Sept. 11 terrorist attack that toppled New York City's Twin Towers, two beams of light shoot into the skies for 30 days in a memorial called "Tribute in Light." This image, which seemed to fill the void at night and in people's hearts, was taken by Jamie Diaz Marcial, daughter of a Filipino journalist and a Filipina artist, and was used by General Electric, sponsor of the event, in its poster and postcard mailing campaign. Jaime, a senior digital photographer, coordinated the shoot for her husband Steve in a team of three video crews, four film crews and three digital photographers from Manhattan Place Entertainment, which was hired by GE to document the ceremony.

Targets: US, Israel embassies

AN AL-QAIDA operative has disclosed the supposed activation of a plot targeting the US and Israeli embassies in Manila, CNN reported last night.

Mohammed Mansour Jabarah, a Kuwait-born Canadian arrested in Oman around March and now in US custody, was quoted as saying during interrogation that an al-Qaida plot earlier hatched in Singapore to attack the US Embassy and other Western interests in the city-state had been moved to the Philippines.

CNN quoted Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes as saying of Jabarah: "He has, call it excellent credentials—a confirmed terrorist. We have to take the results of that interrogation report very, very seriously."

Reyes said the entire police and military have been put on red alert.

The defense secretary declined a request last night from the INQUIRER for an interview, but his staff provided excerpts from the CNN interview conducted earlier in the day.

In it, Reyes was told that CNN had information on Jabarah and the supposed activation of the al-Qaida plot. He was subsequently asked if he could tell CNN anything about that plot.

"We did receive reports that there was an arrest in Oman and that he (Jabarah) figured prominently in trying to execute this plan to target some American installations," Reyes said.

"They (the plotters) met in Singapore, and they might have considered doing something similar—attacking foreign embassies here in the Philippines. We have received reports like that," he added.

In another exchange, Reyes was asked if the Philippine government had shared this information with the US government.

To this, he said: "I'm sure that our intelligence agencies have

AL-QAIDA/A16

US pastor leads 'Walk 911' for kids with cancer

By Armand N. Nocum

AN AMERICAN pastor will walk for the cause of raising money for gravely ill Filipino children who need medicines and medical equipment in order to live.

Daniel K. Garcia, head of an international ministry in the United States and an advocate of peace and children's welfare, turned down an invitation to take part in the Sept. 11 memorial in New York to embark on the "Walk 911-Give a Life" project.

He made the decision after seeing an infomercial on local television on the sad plight of patients at the Philippine General Hospital Pediatric Wards 9 and 11.

Dr. Philip A. Cruz, chief resident of the PGH pediatric wards, said it was "a miracle" that Garcia saw the infomercial and decided to walk from the PGH in Manila to Benguet province in the north starting tomorrow, for the purpose of raising funds.

According to Cruz, about 30 children die in a month—or about one daily—for lack of medicines needed to treat such diseases as cancer, pneumonia, leukemia and malnutrition.

"When doctors cry, you know that it's time to do something," he said of the helplessness doctors felt at witnessing the death of ailing children who could otherwise have been saved.

Cruz said children in advanced

PASTOR/A15

PNP goes after kidnappers in uniform

By TJ Burgonio

THINK of it as a laundry list of hoodlums in uniform.

After issuing an order of battle listing the country's kidnap-for-ransom groups, the Philippine National Police is set to issue another order of battle, this time listing soldiers and policemen involved in kidnapping.

President Macapagal-Arroyo directed the PNP to draw up the list after five kidnappers, including two ex-military men, were reported slain in an encounter last week.

"One of the things I told (PNP Director General Hermogenes) Ebdane was to identify those rascals in uniform, whether currently in uniform, formerly in uniform or Awol (absent without official leave)," Ms Macapagal said at a briefing in Camp Crame yesterday.

She added: "Ebdane, for his part, said that based on their findings he would draft an order of battle and gather evidence against these people so they could be charged and dismissed from the service."

The President made the statement after announcing that the five members of the Veloso car theft syndicate slain in a clash with authorities in Bulacan on Sept. 4 were also kidnappers.

Citing police reports, she said the Veloso group was in fact on the PNP's order of battle of 21 kidnap groups.

"It turned out they were not only car thieves, but this Veloso group was also included in the PNP order of battle of kidnap gangs," Ms Macapagal said.

The President went to the scene of the shootout and viewed the suspects' bodies.

Ms Macapagal said the Veloso gang had abducted two persons, including a foreigner, in December last year. "Since the victims decided not to press charges, the case was dismissed. So they went on to kidnap another one," she said.

PNP/A16

Did the world really change after Sept. 11?

NAKO,SABI-SABI LANG NG AMERIKA YAN!

LONDON—Rarely has history unfolded so dramatically and with such stunning impact on live television.

The enormity of the attacks on America was shockingly and immediately clear to millions of people watching around the world, transfixed by the image of New York's Twin Towers buckling and crumbling into dust.

It has become a cliché, repeated in countless headlines, to describe Sept. 11 as the Day that Changed the World.

But for some historians, the jury is still out as to whether the events of a year ago, devastating and traumatic as they were, represented a one-off episode in history or a decisive turning point.

"Everybody is saying that this changed America forever, and that just seems to me a kind of nonsensical statement. It's not clear in what sense anyone means that, other than that they're going to

DID/A15

Malacañang clears Mike in Naia 3 controversy

By Raul C. Dancel, Carlito Pablo and Rocky Nazareno

MALACAÑANG yesterday cleared First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo of any involvement in the controversial Naia Terminal 3 project, saying he did not even know Alfonso Liongson, the mysterious consultant identified as his dummy by ex-Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

"There seems to be a strategy of really attacking the First Gentleman, linking him to alleged anomalies," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters.

"We categorically deny that the First Gentleman has anything to do with it (Philippine International Air Terminals Co. contract)."

Instead, Bunye said, most of the allegedly onerous provisions in the contract were "inserted during the time of former President (Joseph) Estrada."

Documents obtained by the INQUIRER showed that even without a takeover, the government had already spent close to P900 million in projects related to Naia 3, and is set to shell out some P2.5 billion more.

The sum includes at least P500 million for the construction of an access road through the Nayong Pilipino park—something that sources familiar with the issue said did not have to be built in the first place because the original contract called for Piatco to construct a tunnel linking Naia 2 and 3.

MALACANANG/A16

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Western sections of Central and Southern Luzon and Western Visayas will have monsoon rains. The rest of the country will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/10/02

Second FRONTPAGE

Metro Manila	Monsoon Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Monsoon Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Monsoon Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Monsoon Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Monsoon Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Monsoon Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Hackers fall: Investors safer—GMA

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo yesterday assured foreign investors that not only were they safe from kidnappings in the country today, they also had nothing to fear from computer hackers.

As is her wont, the President motored to national police headquarters at Camp Crame, Quezon City, yesterday to present to the media three computer experts, including two Jordanians, who had been arrested for allegedly hacking into the computer systems of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and other telecommunications firms to "steal" millions of pesos in unauthorized long distance calls.

Police, Air Force and immigration agents arrested Filipino Marlon Laquindanum, alias Blue Magic, and Jordanians Mahmoud SH. O. al Nuseir, alias Ivan Mahmoud, and his brother, Mohamad Nuseir, at their homes in Muntinlupa and Makati cities last week following complaints from the PLDT.

Seized from the trio were assorted communications equipment, personal computers and notebooks containing lists of international and domestic telephone numbers, and numbers of subscribers, that indicated their involvement in illegal PABX (private automatic branch exchange) activities, police said.

"The business community has been saying we should also go after white-collar criminals. Now thanks to Immigration Commissioner (Andrea) Domingo and Pacer (the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response), we have netted a large white-collar syndicate. This is our first big haul under the e-Commerce Act," Ms Macapagal said at the briefing at Camp Crame.

PACER
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PRESIDENT Macapagal presents suspected computer hackers, from left, Marlon Laquindanum, Mahmoud Nuseir and Mohamad Nuseir. VAL HANDUMON

The President added: "Since I'm going to Calabarzon (the Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Aurora-Quezon export zone) later today, I will report to them (investors) that they should feel safe not only from kidnappers, but also from computer hackers."

Immigration Commissioner Domingo said the hacking syndicate, which was allegedly headed by Laquindanum, made at least P100 million from its operation which began last year. "Some victims are saying the syndicate might have made much more," she added.

Using high tech equipment, the hackers reportedly tapped into the computer systems of the PLDT and other companies, "for the purpose of making unauthorized long distance calls," said Senior Supt. Danilo Florentino, chief of the Eastern Police District's intelligence and investigation division.

After gaining access, the hackers "sold calls" to individual subscribers at P12-P14 per minute, which was at least 20 percent cheaper than the standard P44 per minute being charged by PLDT, Florentino said.

Following complaints from PLDT, police launched "Operation Blue Magic" in January and monitored the hackers' calls.

Finance dep't targets wealthy tax cheats

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has vowed to crack down on elite and upper middle income earners who have been cheating on their taxes.

Announced in a press statement, the move challenged an observation made by the influential foreign investment bank, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, that these sectors would be spared the brunt of the government's efforts to raise revenues.

The DOF took exception to Morgan Stanley's pronouncement that since President Macapagal-Arroyo "came to power with the support of the oligarchies such as the Catholic Church, landlords and big business interests . . . it will be an uphill battle for her to convince these (groups) to pay more taxes."

"They are by no means exempt from prosecution if found violating tax laws," the DOF argued. "In fact, the current focus of (our) audit and investigation (are) large taxpayers . . . found to be under-declaring their tax payments."

No less than the President had ordered the crackdown, the department said. "Government's policy is to enforce tax laws equally to all individuals and corporations."

In a report by its Asian research team dated Aug. 27, the United States-based investment bank said the Philippines was beset by fiscal problems that have been taking their toll on the country's economy.

The finance department stressed that the deficit problem was separate from economic growth, and that the latter was being achieved even as the fiscal sector continued to encounter problems.

Morgan Stanley estimated the country's loses at $7.6 billion or about P380 billion, in potential taxes yearly because of widespread corruption, a complex tax system and inefficient revenue collection.

This leakage was pointed to as a big factor that dragged revenues down and contributed to a growing fiscal problem that, as of July, had reached P133 billion against a full-year target of P130 billion.

'Quit boasting,' party-list solon tells top brass

By Christine O. Avendano

"STOP boasting and just do your job."

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran yesterday scolded the military in reaction to Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina's claim on Sunday that the military was close to neutralizing the Abu Sayyaf and was prepared to suffer more losses.

The AFP may be prepared to take more losses, but the civilian populace isn't, Beltran, a prominent activist, said in a statement.

He warned that Carolina's claim "creates demoralization among the ranks of ordinary soldiers, aside from striking worry in the hearts of civilians."

Instead of being neutralized, Beltran noted, the kidnap-for-ransom bandits appeared to have re-grouped.

"Maybe Carolina should change (the code name) Oplan Endgame to Oplan Merry Go Round," he added.

But the outspoken party-list representative was not being funny at all. He said the "merry" chase was in fact detrimental to human lives.

Indeed, armed forces chief of staff Gen. Roy Cimatu yesterday said more casualties were expected in a stepped-up military operation against the Abu Sayyaf and other offshoot kidnap gangs in Mindanao.

Operation Endgame has shifted to "high gear," Cimatu told reporters, boldly announcing that it would "eventually" crush the bandits and their allied groups in Jolo, where three Indonesians and four Filipina Jehovah's Witnesses are being held hostage.

Eight soldiers were killed and 14 gunmen, belonging to either the Abu Sayyaf or another group, were wounded in weekend clashes in the area.

"This is a very difficult operation," Cimatu admitted, during a visit to the SouthCom in Zamboanga City. "There will be ups and downs, and more blood will flow." *With a report from AFP*

Erratum

IN THE INTERNATIONAL School Supplement that came out yesterday, the website on the masthead should have read www.ismanila.com. The .ph was inadvertently placed after the .com. We apologize for the error.

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

ANNOUNCEMENT

A. The Judicial and Bar Council announces the opening of FOUR (4) positions of ASSOCIATE JUSTICE of the COURT OF APPEALS:

1) vacated by Justices Conchita Carpio Morales and Romeo J. Callejo, Sr., upon their promotion to the Supreme Court as Associate Justices;
2) to be vacated by Justice Wenceslao I. Agnir, Jr. on his compulsory retirement on 29 September 2002; and
3) to be vacated by Justice Hilarion L. Aquino, on his compulsory retirement on 21 October 2002.

The deadline for the submission of applications/recommendations for the above positions is on THURSDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2002. In case of recommendation, the same must bear the conformity of the recommendee, which must be submitted also not later than THURSDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2002. Applications/recommendations should be filed with the:

Secretariat, Judicial and Bar Council
Second Floor, Centennial Building
Supreme Court, Padre Faura, Manila
Tel. No. 552-9512 Fax No. 525-3208

B. The Council also announces the opening of the following courts:

MTCC San Pablo City, Laguna (Region IV)
3rd MCTC Nagcarlan-Rizal, Laguna (Region IV)
RTC Branch 15, Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur (Region IX)
MTCC Branch 1, Butuan City, Agusan del Norte (Region X)

Applications must be filed not later than FRIDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 2002.

Applicants must file the following:

Application letter for Applicants	6 copies
Personal Data Sheet (JBC Form 1 - June 1999)	6 copies
I.D. Picture (2x2)	4 copies
Certificate of Good Standing or latest Official Receipt from the IBP National Treasurer	
ITR for 2 preceding years	6 copies
NBI Clearance	
Transcript of Records	
Police Clearance from Place of Residence	

Applications must be addressed to the:

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Include Sulu heir in Ledac, Loren urges

SENATE Majority Leader Loren Legarda urged Malacañang yesterday to include an heir of the Sultan of Sulu in the reconstituted Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (Ledac) on the Sabah issue because the government's claim on the island was anchored on the family's proprietary interest.

"The appointment of Sultan Jamalul Kiram III, one of the heirs of the Sultan of Sulu, as a private sector representative in the Sabah claim council should be seriously considered," Legarda said in a press conference.

The council, which was reconstituted through an executive order signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo on Sept. 2, is composed of five Cabinet members, five congressmen, five senators and three private sector representatives.

The country's claim on Sabah dates back to the proprietary rights of the Sultanate of Sulu. It was in 1962 during the administration of President Diosdado Macapagal that the Philippines asserted sovereignty over the territory in favor of the sultanate. *Cynthia D. Balana*

MNLF to take Pinoys' plight to OIC

By Joel Escovilla
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—The Moro National Liberation Front will take the lead in asking the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to help thousands of Filipinos sent home from Malaysia.

Habib Mujahab Hashim, new chair of the Southern Philippines Development Authority (SPDA), said the OIC has approved a resolution calling on its member-states to help the people of Mindanao and the government of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"We will ask the OIC to (extend) help at the soonest possible time," he said.

Hashim, who belongs to the MNLF Council of 15, added that it was incumbent upon the MNLF to help the deportees since 70 to 80 percent of the expelled Filipinos were families of its members.

Meanwhile, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) has confirmed the inhumane treatment of expelled Filipinos by Malaysian authorities, and is set to elevate the complaints to the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights.

A special investigation report by a CHR fact-finding mission showed that the Filipino returnees "experienced some maltreatment by police authorities" during their detention in Malaysia.

In a statement, the CHR said it was also seeking the cooperation of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia to investigate alleged abuses against the unwanted Filipinos, and ensure prevention of further violations, especially of the rights of women and children.

In the meantime, a source in the Department of Foreign Affairs said Secretary Blas Ople has ordered the setting up of an office in Sabah for the consular and other needs of Filipinos in the disputed territory.

"The office will not be officially associated with the Philippine government, the source said, "although this will be on a long-term basis."

For its part, the Department of Labor and Employment has downplayed the likelihood of worsening unemployment problems due to the influx of returning Filipinos.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said the government was expecting most of the returnees from Malaysia to go back there as soon as they were properly documented.

Sto. Tomas earlier said Malaysian employers were pressuring their government to help them get back their Filipino workers, most of whom are in the construction, manufacturing and housing industries." *With Gerald G. Lacuarta, Norman Bordadora, Dona Pazzibugan, and Blanche S. Rivera*

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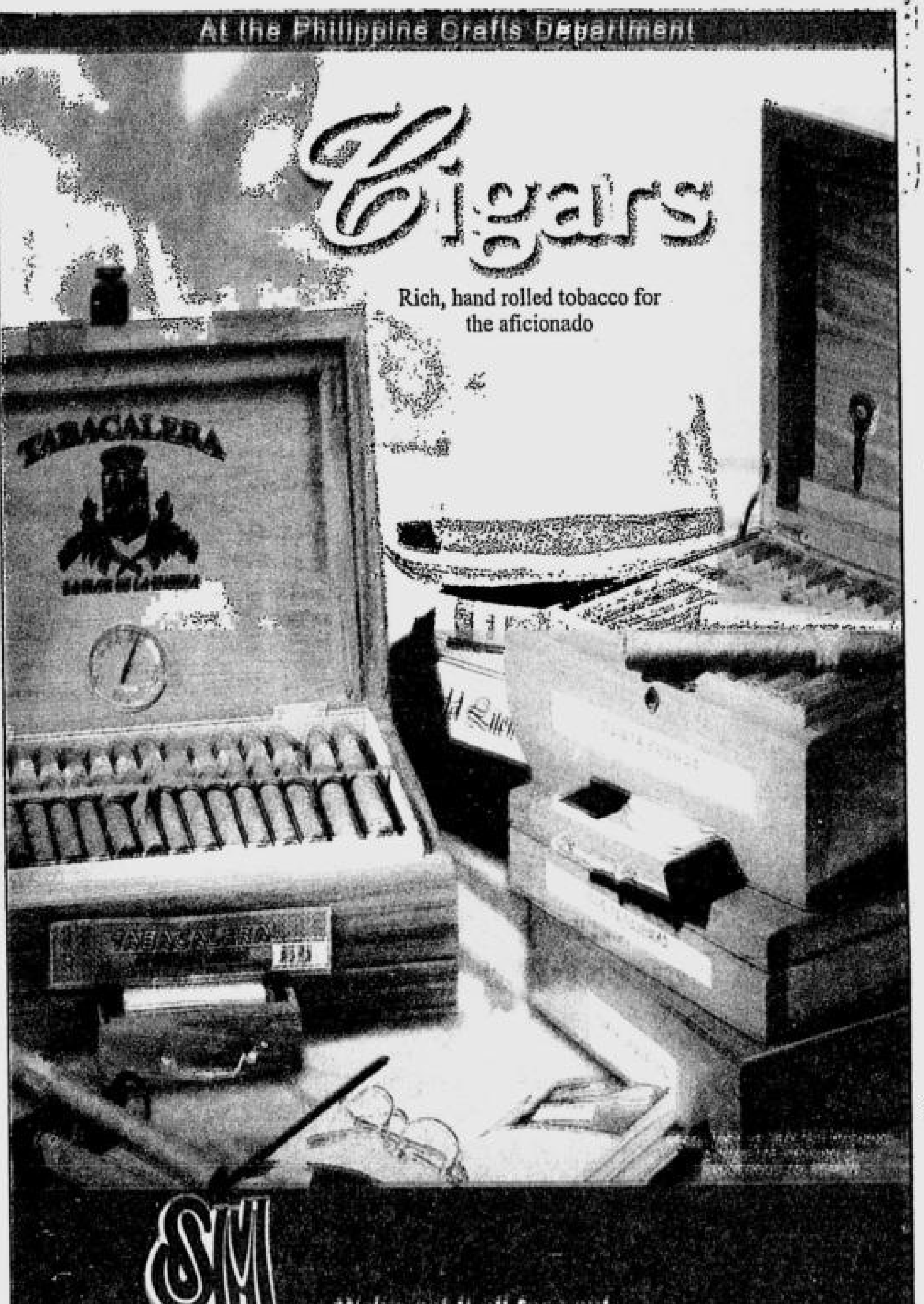

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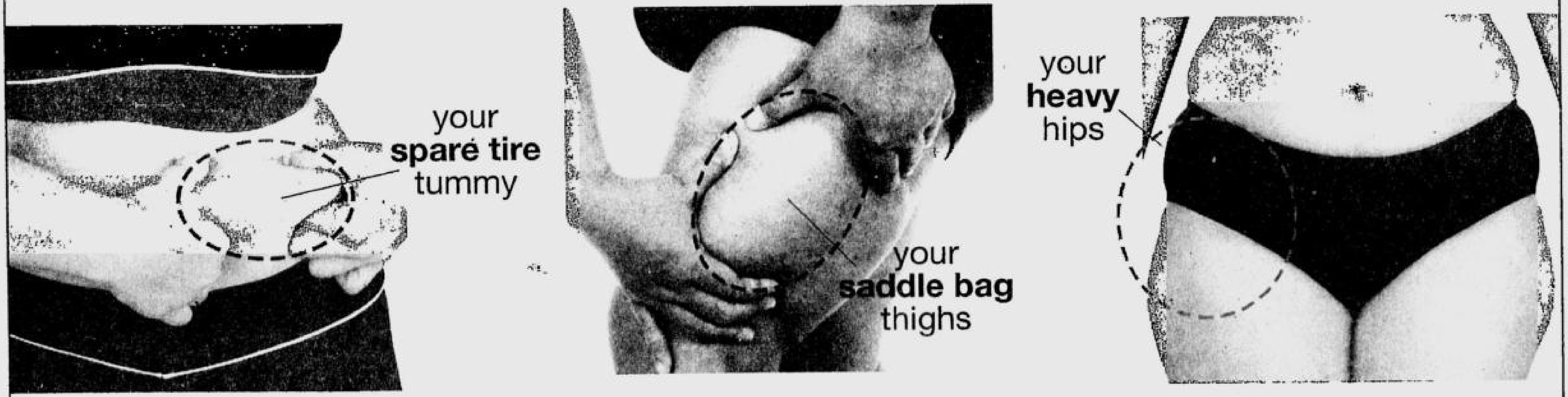

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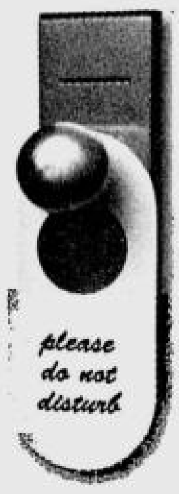

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See flyers for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No 2848 Series of 2002

Despite decline, measles warning up

By Armand N. Nocum

THE DEPARTMENT of Health said yesterday the incidence of measles, one of the leading causes of childhood deaths in the country, has declined this year compared to the same period last year after rising steadily over the years.

In a statement, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said that in Metro Manila alone, the disease afflicted 1,956 people, killing 86 of them, between 1997 and 2001. Those infected had been taken to the San Lazaro Hospital (SLH), the government facility that specializes in infectious diseases.

After steadily rising between 1997-2001, "as shown by a review of the cases at the SLH," Dayrit said the number of cases this year was 34 percent lower than for the same period last year.

Despite the decline in measles cases, Dayrit warned against a resurgence of the disease due to the decline in routine infant vaccinations since 1993.

"This resulted in the increase of 'susceptibles' in the country," Dayrit said. "The pool of children with no measles protection coupled with the vaccine's 15 percent failure rate had resulted in unimaginable measles outbreaks in the past."

"The only way to prevent future measles outbreaks is to ensure the vaccination of all children," Dayrit said. He added that the next mass immunization next year will target children between 1-5 years old.

A highly contagious disease, measles is transmitted rapidly from person-to-person through the air or direct contact.

Congestion and overcrowding contributes to the rapid transmission of the disease. The commonly affected areas are schools, markets and urban slum areas. It is particularly dangerous to the very young and malnourished.

The disease's early symptoms are rashes of three or more days' duration, fever of 38 degrees or more, cough, cold and conjunctivitis. Complications include pneumonia, blindness, encephalitis, deafness, diarrhea, dehydration and even death.

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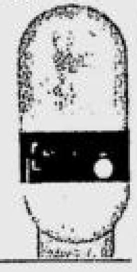

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Probe of 'laundering' at Ermita bank starts

By Raul C. Dancel

GOVERNMENT regulators are investigating at least three bank accounts they suspect were being used to launder "dirty" money from abroad.

Persons familiar with the matter said the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) has begun looking into at least three accounts held by a certain Jutta Krursel at the Ermita, Manila branch of the Robinsons Savings Bank.

The Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is also set to look into the matter this week, the same sources said.

Krursel supposedly maintained the three accounts in behalf of a religious organization, the Lipon ng mga Lingkod ng Panginoon Inc.

Lingkod has filed a complaint with the BSP against Robinsons Bank, a thrift bank owned by retail tycoon John Gokongwei Jr., for allegedly refusing to service its withdrawals.

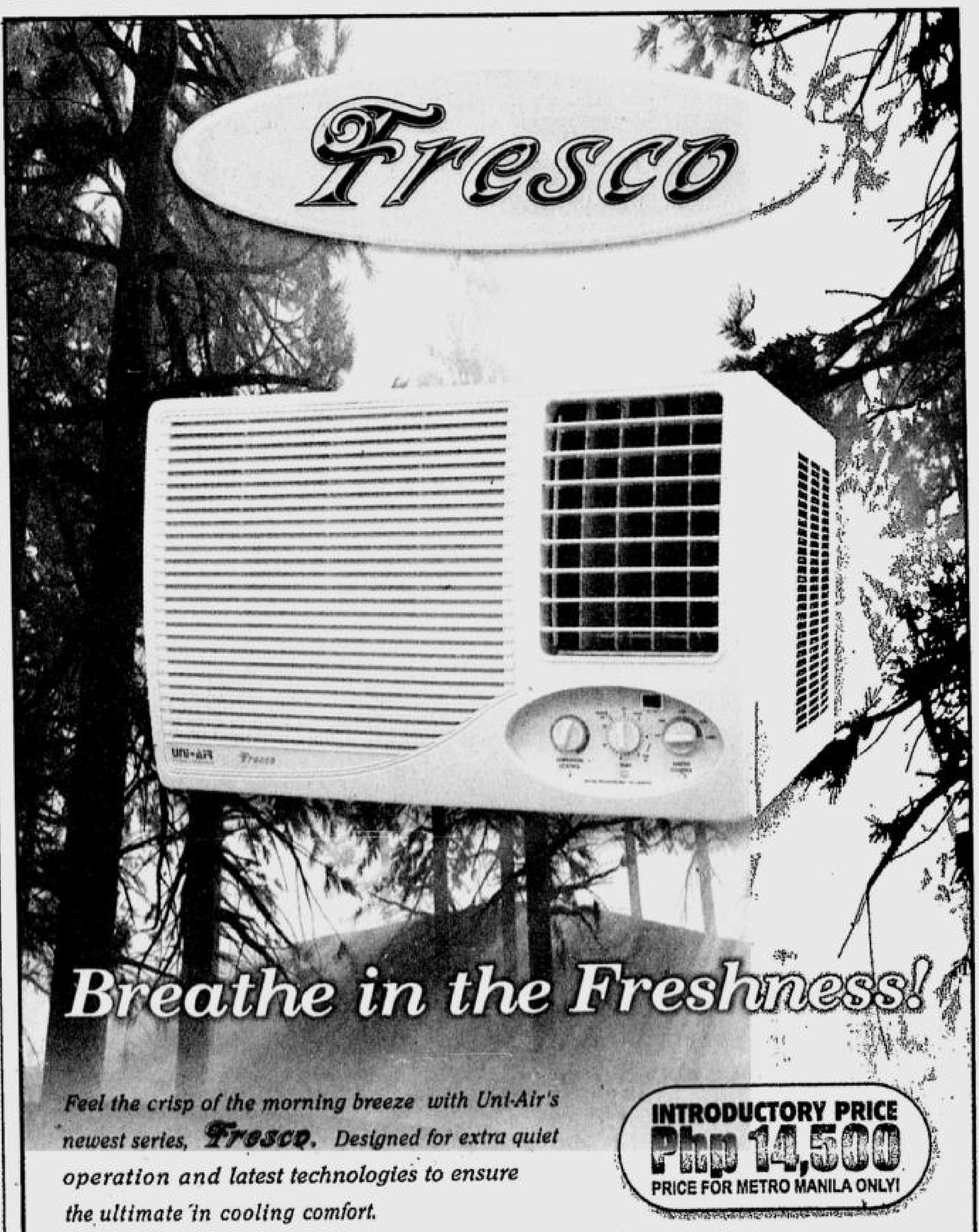
The group claimed it still had about P34 million with the bank. The money, it said, had come from donors who included Drake Publishing Inc. owner Annabeth Germane to fund programs for street children in the Philippines.

In a statement to news organizations, however, Robinsons Bank president and chief executive Reynold Gerongay said Lingkod "is not a client."

"The bank does not have any dealings whatsoever with the said religious organization," Gerongay said.

Reacting to Lingkod's complaint, Gerongay said Robinsons Bank "had in fact sought the help of regulators, including the BSP, to have the matter heard, so that Robinsons Bank could adequately defend itself in the proper venue."

A ranking government regulator, who declined to be named, told the INQUIRER the AMLC had red-flagged the disputed accounts, as Krursel had allegedly been presenting spurious identification papers. *With Carlito Pablo*



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Bunye hates to see printing office go

PRESS Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday he would oppose the abolition of the 102-year-old National Printing Office, which prints official ballots and election forms.

Bunye said the NPO was indispensable since it performs a "very vital function."

The NPO is one of the 14 government agencies set to be abolished next year.

The agency's union had claimed Dante Ang, President Macapagal-Arroyo's longtime publicist, was behind the NPO's abolition so he could bring in a semi-private printing firm called APO Printing Unit that he had once worked for.

Ang has denied the allegations.

The NPO is under the Office of the Press Secretary.

"(The NPO's abolition) is subject to review and I myself would appeal to (Budget) Secretary (Emilia) Boncodin to take a second look (at the decision)," Bunye said in an interview over radio dzMM.

He said the NPO would only need to undergo "minor changes" if it had indeed become a financial burden to the government, as the Department of Budget and Management had claimed. *Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

Senators buck new tax on cell phone users

By Cynthia D. Balana

SENATORS yesterday opposed the planned imposition of a new tax on pre-paid cell phone cards, saying this would hit millions of Filipino consumers hard.

Sen. Ralph Recto, chair of the Senate committee on ways and means, assured cell phone users that any proposal on the matter would not get the Senate's support.

"Government's desire to collect the VAT (value-added tax) as soon as the cards are issued by the cell phone companies is a tax administration issue," Recto said. "This should be resolved between the BIR (Bureau of Internal Revenue) and cell phone companies, not between the BIR and cell phone users."

Besides, he pointed out, cell phone users already pay the VAT whenever they buy the pre-paid cards.

Sen. Manny Villar supported Recto's view, saying the inefficiency of tax collectors and revenue-generating agencies should not be taken out on consumers.

"While we realize the need for added revenues to address the widening budget deficit, the burden must not be passed on to (the public)," said Villar, chair of the Senate committee on finance.

Villar said government should focus instead on schemes that would help the BIR and Customs meet their targets. The planned new tax would clamp down on an effective means of communication that has become an indispensable part of the lives of millions of Filipinos, he added.

Recto said any unreasonable burden on cell phone usage, whether post-paid or pre-paid, would be opposed by text advocates.

He said the BIR should clarify whether the planned new tax was meant to plug a loophole or to merely narrow the lag time between actual VAT payment and its remittance to the bureau.

Plugging a loophole presumed tax evasion based on under-reporting by cell phone companies, and could be the subject of a legal action and not by a new tax, he said.

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A Friendly Message to Jeffrey Cheng, Cheng Yong, and Cohorts

Stop the Smear Job on the President, Gloria Tan-Climaco, and Their Legal Advisers.

Blame Yourselves for the Mess You Have Caused.

Instead of behaving as decent businessmen should, you have burned almost everyone you have dealt with since this entire airport project began. Consider these forces you have trampled upon:

The Philippine Government: Instead of you paying the puny P300 million you owed the government, you still had to invent and make all those deductions, so that you would pay only P2 million, less than 1% of the guaranteed payment. Remember the Karl May letter? Karl May, Fraport representative in PIATCO, was bewildered how you charged the government five times more than the actual worth of the work done. ***Down and out na nga ang finances ng bansa natin, binalewala niyo pa ang dapat niyong bayarang P298 million!***

Your German Partners: No wonder the Germans desperately wanted to get out of your flawed partnership. Instead of being contented with the money you would have surely earned, you were making commissions from your suppliers! That's no way to treat your financiers who propped you up. ***Kasosyo niyo, tinaló niyo! Masamang ugali 'yan, mga pare ko!***

The Service Operators. They would have been another big source of your revenues. What did you do? You threatened them. You told them that they better pack up, because you were NOT going to honor their contracts in Terminal 3. Then you coerced and cajoled airlines to abandon them. Well, these guys are no pushovers. They fought for their rights as legitimate businessmen should! ***Kung hindi kayo sanay sa patas na kumpetisyon, hindi pa kayo handa sa tunay na negosyo.***

Other Businessmen. You have also required "goodwill" money from people who wish to do business in Terminal 3. ***Ibabalik niyo pa ba ang pera nila?***

The Filipino People. You were going to charge our OFWs 90% more just to use Terminal 3. Do you wonder why they are up in arms against you? You were also going to get rid of thousands of UNIONIZED JOBS! ***Inuna niyo ang bulsa ng PIATCO; kinalimutan niyo naman ang kabuhayan ng libu-libong botanteng Pilipino.***

The Palace. And now, instead of focusing on the real issues, you have resorted to character assassination against the President, her advisers, her Chief Legal Counsel — and even the First Gentleman.

Considering your shady dealings, you still have the gall to ascribe graft to a highly respected Presidential adviser. ***Hindi niyo kayang bolahin ang lahat ng namumuno. Hindi kayo lulusot sa Pangulo at kay Gloria Tan-Climaco.***

The more you wage your smear campaign against people doing their job, the more all your wrongdoings will be exposed to your utter embarrassment and possible prosecution.

You shall soon be totally unmasked,
and the entire nation
will see you as you really are.

MIA-NAIA Association of Service Operators

Advt.

Best acolyte to No. 1 soldier

By Raj Padilla
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—His parents always thought he would become a priest. He surprised them by joining the military. Thirty-three years later, he rose to become the Armed Forces chief of staff.

No mother could be prouder than Mrs. Dimpna Palma-Defensor, 79, over the achievement of her second eldest child, Gen. Benjamin Defensor Jr.

"We knew it all along. We know he was a top contender for the post. In matters of qualification, my son cannot be outranked by anybody, both in academic and battlefield engagements," she said.

Mrs. Defensor, who heads the devotees of Nuestra Señora de la Regla in Iloilo, said she had asked her fellow devotees of the Blessed Mother in Iloilo to pray for her son.

"Three days later, the Lord answered us and they all congratulated me," she said.

She only has one wish for her son—"to be the best chief of staff the Philippines ever had and to help solve the problems of the country now."

Defensor was to have retired on Sept. 12 when he turns 56, the mandatory retirement age. He will serve as AFP chief for little more than two months, from Sept. 10 to Nov. 18.

The Defensors are original Iloilo residents. Benjamin Jr. is the second of seven children. Among his siblings is ex-senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

Mrs. Defensor was a former acting president and dean of the defunct Visayan Central College. Her husband, Benjamin Sr., was a regional trial court judge in Aklan.

THE THEN newly appointed Air Force Chief Maj. Gen. Benjamin Defensor Jr. with ex-President Joseph Estrada. VAL HANDUMON

Benjamin Jr. completed his elementary education at the La Paz National High School and his secondary education at the Iloilo National High School, then known as the Iloilo Provincial High School.

Unlike his sister who was a consistent valedictorian, Benjamin Jr. didn't really excel in academics during his elementary and high school days, recalls the mother.

But challenged by Miriam's academic achievements, he was once driven to prove that he too could do it. He finished at the top of his class and also topped the monthly departmental tests in all subjects.

"But that was for one grading period only," said Mrs. Defensor. "When I asked him if he would be able to sustain it, he told me '*husto na ina a* (that is enough)'."

Benjamin entered the Philippine Military Academy in 1965 to the surprise of his family. Mrs. Defensor said she always thought her son, whom she described as "the best acolyte St. Clement's Church ever had," would end up a priest.

As a young boy, he never missed a single Mass at the Redemptorist-run St. Clement's Church, which was quite close to their house in Hechanova, La Paz District, Iloilo City.

"Rain or shine, typhoon or high water, he was never absent from the Mass the whole 365 days of the year. Never," the mother said.

But it was in the PMA that Benjamin Jr.'s star finally shone. He earned the highest grade in athletics while he was editor-in-chief of The Corps magazine, the academy's official publication. He was also president of the PMA Class 1969.

Benjamin Jr. saw action against the Moro rebels in 1974 as a combat pilot of the 205th Helicopter Wing. Within a span of 24 hours, he was awarded two Gold Crosses for flying missions under enemy fire in Sulu.

He has more than 42 awards and decorations, including three Gold Crosses and four Distinguished Service Stars, the highest in his level.

In October 2000, Benjamin Jr. became the 26th chief of the Philippine Airforce. He got his third star in November that year.

Just when his friends thought that he would retire from military service on his 56th birthday on Sept. 12, President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed him AFP chief.

PAGC tells Braganza to answer charges

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE PRESIDENTIAL Anti-Graft Commission has found probable cause in the complaint filed by employees of the agrarian reform department against Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza for alleged overspending during the 14th anniversary celebration of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program last July 10.

PAGC chair Dario Rama has ordered Braganza to submit his reply to the complaint of the DAR Employees Association and has set a preliminary conference for Sept. 15.

But Rama said Braganza was not required to make a personal appearance.

According to the employees union, Braganza has to answer for the extravagant week-long celebration of the CARP anniversary last July which culminated in a national convention of all DAR directors and provincial officers at the Fontana Resort at the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga.

The DAR allegedly spent as much as P50 million for the anniversary activities, the bulk of which went to transportation and accommodations.

The Darea also accused Braganza of delaying the signing of a collective negotiating agreement, the equivalent of a collective bargaining agreement in the private sector, with the union.

Braganza earlier dismissed the Darea's charges as motivated by the "personal interests" of the union's officers.

Chinese envoy wants fines reduced

By Michael Lim Ubac

IN what amounts to an initial attempt at a plea bargain for 122 Chinese fishermen being detained for poaching and possession of endangered species, Chinese Embassy officials are seeking to have the fines reduced in exchange for the Chinese pleading guilty to the crimes.

But Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, who earlier said the fishermen "must plead guilty, pay the fines and suffer the consequences of their actions," is not having any of it.

Chinese ambassador Wang Chungui, who is seeking the immediate release of the fishermen in time for the visit this week of the chair of Li Peng, the chair of China's National People's Congress, yesterday sought a personal meeting with Perez who was unavailable as he had been called to Malacañang.

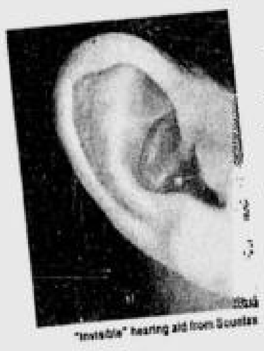
Wang talked instead with Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño who revealed that the envoy wanted a drastic reduction of the fines.

Under the Endangered Species Law, catching giant sea turtles in Philippine waters is punishable by a maximum of six months' imprisonment and a P2,000 fine for each individual.

The fine for poaching ranges from $50,000 to $100,000 for each fishing vessel and their confiscation.

Zuño disclosed that Wang had no objection to the punishment and fine for the first offense. "But they want a lesser penalty for the second offense of poaching," said Zuño. He said Wang wanted the fine reduced to less than $50,000 in total.

However, Perez said in a telephone interview yesterday that he could not accommodate Wang's request because the $50,000 was already a reduced fine for all six vessels used by the Chinese. Usually, the $50,000 fine is imposed on each fishing vessel used for poaching, he pointed out.



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Missing the boat

EDITORIAL

IN THE PAST two months, two historic events related to the effort to build up a global rule of law took place without the Philippines figuring in them. The first was the coming into formal existence of the International Criminal Court on July 1. The second was the holding of a general assembly on Sept. 3 to discuss how the ICC would be run.

The International Criminal Court was established by the Rome Statute, an international treaty signed by 120 nations in 1998. Seven other countries voted against it and 21 abstained. The benchmark 60 ratification votes needed to get the ICC started was reached on April 11, 2002. To date 77 countries have ratified the treaty.

With the establishment of the ICC, any act of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and crimes of aggression committed after July 1, 2002 can be tried by the court.

Unlike the International Court of Justice which deals with states, the ICC deals with and has the power to investigate, prosecute and convict individuals. The ICC could be a forum for redress of crimes committed by individuals as part of or in connection with a government in power or a group seeking to overthrow a government.

The Philippines was one of the original signatories to the Rome Statute, but up to now the Senate has not ratified it because it has not been submitted to the chamber by the President. Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste and Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales have introduced resolutions in their respective chambers urging its ratification. But President Macapagal-Arroyo appears to be dilly-dallying on the treaty.

Had the ICC been in place in the 1940s, it could have tried the officers and men of the Japanese Imperial Army who made sex slaves of many Filipino and Asian women. Some 10,000 victims of human rights violations during the Marcos dictatorship could have filed a case in the ICC. The succeeding government could not prosecute the case because of the presidential immunity enjoyed by Marcos.

The 10,000 victims did file a class suit against Marcos in a Hawaii court. The court handed down a decision in favor of the victims and ordered the Marcos estate to pay them $1.9 billion in civil and moral damages, but the decision has not been enforced in the Philippines.

Had the Philippines ratified the treaty earlier, it could have filed cases against Malaysian officials and policemen responsible for the inhumane treatment of Filipino deportees from Sabah.

Crimes similar to those committed by al-Qaida abroad and by the Abu Sayyaf in the Philippines could be prosecuted after July 1. But so also would the slayings of Afghan civilians and the massacre of Afghan soldiers by American soldiers waging the global war against terrorism in Afghanistan.

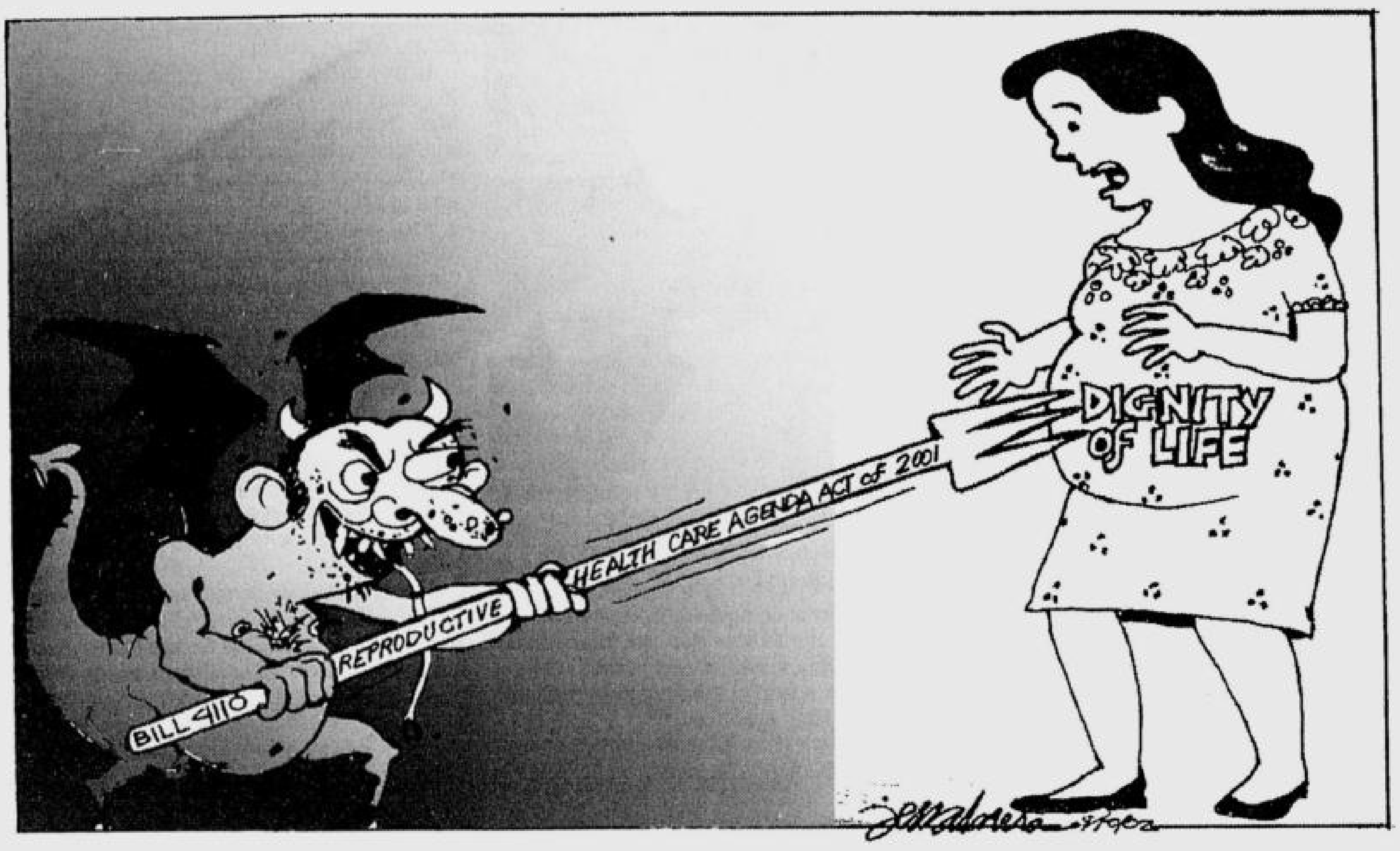
While US President Bill Clinton was in favor of the ICC, he didn't endorse the treaty to the Senate for ratification. When George W. Bush came into power, his administration resolved to "unsign" the Rome Statute.

Many reasons have been given for the US stand: diminution of national sovereignty, vulnerability of Americans to international political blackmail, interference with peacekeeping operations, selective and politicized justice and deprivation of US defendants of the protection of the US Bill of Rights. Some analysts, however, believe that the US opposition to the ICC comes largely from its military-defense establishment's fear that US troops could be tried for war crimes under the ICC treaty.

Now the US is going beyond non-ratification. It is pressuring other countries not to ratify the treaty, or, if they have ratified it, to give US personnel immunity from prosecution by the court. The Philippines is apparently one of the countries that are being pressured by the United States not to ratify the treaty.

The United States has warned the Philippines of withdrawal of millions of dollars in military and economic aid if it ratified the treaty. This is one case where the Philippines can show it is really a sovereign state, a strong state, by refusing to give in to US pressure and by following its conscience on the issue of the ratification of the Rome Statute.

Non-ratification will deprive Filipinos of a venue for seeking justice for victims of heinous crimes and crimes against humanity in an international forum. The Rome Statute is a landmark document in world history. We can't afford to miss the boat this time and fail to join the global community in its quest for universal justice.



Transco (?) answers questions on CBK project

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IT IS the policy of this column, in fairness to all concerned and for greater accuracy, to run both sides of any controversy—except when one side is obviously inaccurate and biased. Last Aug. 30, we ran a column, titled "Caliraya Dam endangers six Laguna towns," which was about the CBK (Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan) project and a "certificate of completion" issued for work that was not completed.

Asisclo T. Gonzaga, president of National Transmission Corp. (Transco), sent a letter clarifying some statements. In fairness to him, we give him the floor:

On the statements that

1. "The Caliraya spillway has cracks and vibrates when water is released to run the power plant's turbines. It threatens the lives of 80,000 people living below the dam."

a. The spillways of the Caliraya dam are not used to run the power plant's turbines but to release excess water during typhoons and heavy rains. The spillways are actually part of the safety and water management infrastructure of the Caliraya dam precisely to protect the neighboring communities.

b. Spilling water is tantamount to wasting water and wasting the electricity that was used to pump the water up to the reservoir from the Laguna lake. It is a last resort...

c. The amount of water being released depends on the excess that will overflow and not on the generation capacity.

When it was in use, the vibrations occurred at the elbow section of the old-funnel-tunnel design spillway. After more than 50 years the old funnel had shown cracks at the elbow (there they are) and were accordingly repaired in 1997 to 1998. Its steel linings were replaced and voids and cracks in between were filled with cement through a process called pressure cement injection or grouting.

d. Under CBK, a new Caliraya spillway is under construction using the open channel design which will double the rated spilling capacity to 500 cubic meters per second compared to 240 CMS before. Instead of the alleged risks, this will further assure the safety of Laguna towns. This new spillway is now more than 50 percent complete. The open channel design eliminates vibrations.

2. "The Certification of Completion signed will enable CBK Power Corp. to receive some P2.4 million for work never undertaken, much less completed."

a. The propriety of the certification was later validated by the independent auditor Meritec of New Zealand report which said:

"As far as we can determine, we see no substantive reason for continuing to withhold the invoices (for capital recovery fee and O&M fee) due to the BROT contractor on the basis of non-completion of Kalayaan Unit I. Accordingly, we suggest that payment be made as soon as possible to avoid the default action currently pending. The majority of the common items between Kalayaan I and Kalayaan II have been completed. With the exception of the SFC, the uncompleted common items do not materially affect the operations of Units 1 and 2."

b. The Board of Napocor, after careful study of Meritec's findings, approved the payment on July 24, 2002...

3. "Gonzaga issued last May a waiver on the completion of remaining common activities for Kalayaan I plant. The waiver practically covers the whole scope of Impsa's contracted work for Kalayaan I." The waiver includes "construction of a new spillway at the Caliraya part of the CBK2 project."

The new Caliraya spillway is under construction and was not waived. The waiver was supposed to be for the postponement of completion of common activities which was seen as serving "no useful purpose" by Meritec.

4. "The Napocor engineers contested the Certificate of Completion. Engineer R.T. Bacani, Napocor VP for Systems Operations, griped in a Feb. 20, 2001 memo that `systems operations was not consulted prior to the issuance of the Certificate of Completion.'"

This is a twisted presentation of only one side of the coin evidently to serve the devious purposes of this smear campaign. Permit us to quote from Napocor's "CBK Project Management's response to Mr. Bacani, dated March 12, 2001."

a. On Mr. Bacani's complaint that his department was not consulted

"Yet, your office ignored, probably due to your very busy schedule, majority and the more important memos and communications we have sent to your office on the matter of tests, commissioning and issuance of the Certificate of Completion."

Mr. Bacani never disputed this answer.

b. On the allegation that the plant had deteriorated and now has to be operated manually.

The technical problem on the remote control system has already been remedied by equipment fine-tuning many months ago. The problem was on the Napocor side, not CBK. The power plant is now working better than ever at automatic generation control mode.

The two units of Kalayaan are now able to generate about 182 MW each compared to only 150 MW total before their rehabilitation. The CBK contract stipulated that the measure of success of the rehabilitation work is only 177 MW each.

Question: Why is Mr. Gonzaga doing the answering and not Napocor or CBK Power Corp.? Transco, which he heads, is a separate and independent corporation which has nothing to do with the project.

Remembering

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

FOR DAYS now, the media have been full of exhortations for us to remember 9/11. Well, how can anyone forget the image of those two planes diving into the two gleaming towers of the Manhattan skyline, sending them shuddering and crashing to the ground? It opened whole new doors in the meaning of vulnerability. And fear. And anger.

If you have friends and relatives in New York, you are not likely to forget it. I do. And though none of them ended up being inside the doomed buildings or near them at the time, the what-ifs continue to boggle the mind. Had they been there for whatever reason, they might have been one of those who were trapped in the rubble and never ferreted out. Only candles burning above ground might have been left to mark their having been in this world, before they departed it in this gruesome way.

No, it is not easy to forget 9/11. But it is not easy to sympathize either with the breathtaking self-absorption of many of those who call for remembering it. One Arab woman and a professor of the London School of Economics, also a woman, put it very well in a roundtable discussion in BBC some weeks ago on the aftermath of 9/11 when they said the US frittered the goodwill and compassion of the world far too easily and swiftly by conscripting that tragedy to flex its muscle rather than to examine its conscience. I agree. (Those two were the most brilliant in that discussion, and it is probably not an accident that they were both women. Head and heart are not naturally opposed faculties.)

I myself had thought that event would spark some introspection among American officials, and indeed among American citizens themselves, and cause them to look more closely at what they had done to make the world what it is, in the same way the Vietnam War did for them in the 1980s. Not so. Or at least it hasn't happened yet (I continue to hope it will). It has only fanned the fires of anger, it has only beaten the drums of war.

My specific problem with the kind of remembering we are being asked to make it is that it asks us as well to indulge in a grand forgetting. At the very least, what that means is that we see no other pain but America's. Not the pain of other victims of terrorism, not the pain of the victims of unjust wars and occupations, not the pain of the victims of utter devastation, often of America's making. Indeed, not the members of the Afghan wedding party who fell victims to George W. Bush's smart bombs. Not the women and children who died in the buildings when the Israeli army razed down whole quarters of Palestine. Not the hundreds of thousands of innocent Iraqis, many of them Red Crescent volunteers, who were sent to the bosom of Allah by George Bush Sr.'s smart bombs. Unlike the dead in 9/11, they will forever remain nameless and faceless, Arab names being hard to pronounce and Arab faces even harder to etch in the minds of CNN listeners.

Still more. It asks us to forget that the US not very long ago propped up Idi Amin, Bokassa, Duvalier, Noriega, Van Thieu, Pinochet, our very own Marcos, and a host of other nasty characters in Asia, Africa, and Latin America who unleashed their murderous thugs to keep the world safe for democracy. Every time we recollect them-indeed every time we mention Balangiga and the origins of American presence in these islands-a flood of angry voices comes bursting at us demanding that we see these concerns as unimportant, irrelevant, and insidious. They mean nothing in a world riven into Armageddon, the US charging at the head of the forces of Good, banners flailing in the wind, against the forces of Evil led by the "rogue countries." It is Armageddon, except that it is not Yahweh or Allah who sits in judgment in these Last Days. America does.

And still more. It asks us to forget that the CIA and American covert operation have been responsible for wholesale slaughter in various parts of the world. Indeed, it does not only ask us to forget that, it asks us to transform them, by the magic dust of Hollywood, bat wings, and the tears of those who grieve for 9/11 into knights in shining armor, Men in Black, and Marvel heroes rolled into one. It asks us to forget America once lamented the folly of the Vietnam War, through elegiac novels and plays and movies, and see that they were right to carpet-bomb it with Agent Orange after all. That is what a spate of movies has been trying to do lately.

Even worse, it asks us to forget, through a neon-lit recruitment ad called "War Against Terror," that the very people who have signed up for it, who are now being hailed as the staunchest defenders of freedom, are the very thugs in uniform who propped up the rule of the nasty characters in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and made the world ring with the cries of those they tortured and "salvaged" while they played the ukelele and sang "Home on the Range." Chief of them the American-trained Special Forces of Indonesia, who made the streets of Indonesia run with blood so Suharto could keep his country safe for democracy. But not least our very own West-Point and PMA-trained cutthroats in uniform who along with one Wahab Akbar, formerly of the Abu Sayyaf, now governor of Basilan, are roaming the South to keep this country safe for democracy.

I grieve for those who died in 9/11. But I do not see why that grief, and those of others, should be yoked to a vision of the world that bears little resemblance to how most of us remember it. I cannot see how we honor the dead by turning their bones into separate and saintly relics rather than letting them mingle with the bones of the other dead in recognition of our common humanity.

By all means let us remember 9/11 with all the passion we can muster. But let us not forget everything else.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Crackdown on OFWs could worsen RP woes

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE GOVERNMENT'S dire finances, owing mainly to falling revenue collections, have made it imperative to cut releases to national government agencies by 25 percent and defer the release of the Internal Revenue Allotments for local government units. These financial difficulties are being complicated by news that some 200,000 OFWs in Italy and Israel are facing expulsion in the wake of a massive crackdown on illegal workers in those countries. This comes amid the problem of how to deal with several hundred thousand undocumented Filipinos deported from Sabah or still facing deportation if negotiations between Manila and Kuala Lumpur should break down.

To top it all, war clouds are thickening over the Middle East as the United States and the United Kingdom appear determined to topple Iraq's Saddam Hussein from power. A mass evacuation of Filipinos from the Middle East if the war in Iraq spills over could add to the financial burden of the government.

All these dislocations of Filipinos around the world could affect their dollar remittances, now estimated at about $6 billion to $7 billion a year. This could add to the government's worsening financial difficulties.

* * *

I spoke with Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas who, thank heavens, remains quite calm in the face of such problems. I suppose this is where her being a veteran in the labor field makes a difference. Sto. Tomas admitted that the problems are serious, but gave the impression that they are manageable, and something is being done about them. For instance, she pointed out that while the problem of the undocumented 400,000 Filipinos in Sabah stemmed from the enforcement of stricter policies by the Malaysian government, about 600 Filipinos have already been issued passports in Bongao and Zamboanga City, and are ready to return to Sabah and more applications for passport are being processed. Sto. Tomas stressed that Malaysian plantations in Sabah do not want to give up their Filipino workers who are good at their work.

* * *

On the other hand, the labor secretary pointed out that the more than 130,000 Filipino workers in Italy all have passports and therefore are not "undocumented." What they need is to "regularize" their stay since many of them entered as tourists. Sto. Tomas noted that a new law was enacted by the Italian government last July extending a form of amnesty for irregular workers. The law, to take effect in October and November, allows OFWs to stay in Italy and work, but their Italian employers must apply for the two-year residence permits for them and pay the necessary social security fees. Sto. Tomas sees no problem with this since Filipinos are the most preferred among all the foreign workers in Italy. She stressed that there exists this "window of opportunity" for our OFWs in Italy and in fact Filipino labor attaches are rallying the OFWs with the exhortation, *"Mag-regularize na kayo para wala kayong problema."*

* * *

The DOLE chief pointed out that the same condition exists in Israel, where there are some 20,000 undocumented OFWs. They have to regularize their stay by asking their employers to guarantee it. As for the 117 Filipinos in Iraq, Sto. Tomas said they could all be loaded in one plane should war erupt there. She admitted, however, that the problem could be magnified if the war spills over to the neighboring countries in the Middle East where an estimated 1.5 million Filipinos are said to be working in 12 countries.

* * *

Lawyer Raoul Angangco, senior partner of the law office Villaraza & Angangco, which used to be Carpio Villaraza Cruz, wrote to dispute certain allegations raised in this column against prominent lawyers of the firm. Earlier I quoted Piatco vice president Moises Tolentino asserting in an INQUIRER front-page story that Presidential Legal Adviser Avelino Cruz and Supreme Court Justice Antonio Carpio "were responsible for the surprising turn of events." This column also mentioned Rep. Jacinto Paras' "strong suspicions" that Presidential Adviser Gloria Tan Climaco was acting on behalf of "secret partners" with her proposal for a government takeover of Piatco. I opined that the hush-hush and rush-rush circumstances of the government's takeover of Piatco led to speculation that was another accommodation to Lucio Tan, who chaired the firm that lost in the bidding for Naia Terminal 3.

* * *

Angangco said all the foregoing had "no factual basis" and termed them "malicious gossip." He explained that their law firm was engaged for AEDC by its chair then, Alfonso Yuchengco, their longtime client, and not Lucio Tan who was only one of the six AEDC taipans then.

I had also written earlier that Carpio Villaraza, through (now Sol-Gen) Simeon Marcelo, represented Lucio Tan in the Feb. 9, 1999 joint motion with then Transportation Secretary Vicente Rivera et al., to dismiss the case AEDC had filed against DOTC. Both Tan's and Marcelo's signatures appeared in the joint motion to dismiss. Angangco explained that it was AEDC (which was by then chaired by Lucio Tan in a kind of rotating chairmanship) that his firm represented, adding that the company "has a juridical personality separate and distinct from Lucio Tan. We were not then, and are not now, lawyering for Lucio Tan. We have no interest whatsoever in the outcome of the present inquiry into the Piatco deal, much less in any accommodation of Lucio Tan."

Angangco also denied allegations about their firm's closeness to Climaco, saying that it never worked with her when she was at SGV. He also denied that his partner Arthur Villaraza was the "unseen hand" in the Piatco case, saying categorically he had no "involvement or interest" in it.

A movie you have to watch

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IF you can watch just one movie this year, then make it "Road to Perdition." I know, there's the Harry Potter sequel to look forward to, not to mention "The Two Towers," the second book in the trilogy of "Lord of the Rings." But however blasphemous this may sound, and my apologies to the boy wizard and the fellowship of the ring, "Road to Perdition" could very well fill every need and hunger you seek to assuage when you go and see movies. So I say again, if you had to make a choice and could see just one out of the hundreds of films released and still to be released this year, make it "Road to Perdition."

And this is not just me talking. David Letterman, and you can't find a bigger cynic than him, almost embarrassed himself on air when he couldn't stop raving about "Road." When his audience began to laugh, suspecting he was pulling a fast one, Letterman corrected them and said he utterly meant the compliments, and he wasn't raving just for the sake of Tom Hanks, his guest. "If you can't make a movie as good as 'Road to Perdition,' then don't bother making any more movies," Letterman said, addressing movie producers.

So I'm telling you, if you miss "Road to Perdition," and you claim to love films, then kick yourself in the butt right now.

The first time I saw a trailer, I vowed to make time for "Road." If only for the casting, pairing Hanks with Paul Newman, the film deserves a look-see. In the first place, a movie has to be extra-good, certainly far above the run-of-the-mill, to draw Newman out of retirement. But now that I've seen the movie, I think director Sam Mendes and producers Richard and Dean Zanuck did Newman the favor. Newman is said to be a "shoo-in" for Best Actor in the awards derby. And as John Rooney, he was handed the role of a lifetime.

* * *

BY NOW, most readers should know the rough outlines of "Road to Perdition's" plot. A hitman and enforcer for the Irish Mob, Michael Sullivan (Hanks), must choose between his son Mike (Tyler Hoechlin) and his boss, Rooney (Newman), who has been in every sense but biological a father to him, when the boy witnesses a murder. In the same way, too, Rooney is called upon to choose between Sullivan, the son he loves, and Connor (Daniel Craig), the son who bears his genes and name but is in everything else a disappointment.

But there are many other stories in "Road to Perdition." There is the story of the road trip that father and son undertake, literally on the road to Perdition, which is the name of the town where the boy's aunt lives, and where they hope to find shelter from the criminal underground. Sharing the perils of the road, threshing out unresolved issues that fester in the face of the father's secret occupation, father and son must learn to trust and open up to each other if they are to help each other survive.

"Road to Perdition" is a movie about the dynamic between parent and child, and the betrayal and abandonment that seem at times necessary to set the child off on the road to adulthood. It's about sin and redemption, vengeance and justice, about America in the grip of the Depression, about the Mob and its enfolding but unforgiving family strictures, about one man's trip to hell and his determination not to bring his son along with him.

* * *

IN STRUCTURE and approach, "Road to Perdition" is far more conventional than "American Beauty," Mendes' first and only movie before "Road."

But while "American Beauty," which took home Best Picture honors at the Oscars, took a sardonic, detached look at the present-day America of suburban angst and middle-aged despair, "Road to Perdition" seems to have engaged the filmmaker's heart.

There is a sense of fate lurking about Sullivan and Rooney. The viewer just knows the two men will come to tragic ends. There is a sense of the inevitability of Greek tragedy about the two whose love and respect for each other are so palpable and yet whose characters dictate stark and cruel choices for both.

Mendes locates these characters in settings that proclaim their isolation and puny size in the larger scheme of things. Early on, there is the recurring link between water and death. The body of a member of the Rooney gang is preserved with ice, the water dripping into buckets as the ice melts. Sullivan's wife and younger son are killed as the boy prepares to take a bath. Rooney meets his fate in the driving rain, and Sullivan his, facing the gleaming waters of a lake.

* * *

NEWMAN shows us just why, for many years, critics considered him a vastly underrated actor. His face is a map of the years and emotions, but he doesn't allow his features to declaim his feelings as much as hint at them.

Hanks might seem an odd choice for a mobster, let alone a hit-man. But it's precisely his very innocuousness, his blandness, that may have made Sullivan such an effective killer. And it is interesting to watch a man who looks like a "nice guy" behave atrociously, even cruelly, and yet leave us the impression that at heart he remains unsullied by his deeds.

But if you aren't a fan of either Newman or Hanks, then watch "Road to Perdition" just for the fun of seeing Jude Law go to town with his role as Maguire, the hit-man with a fetish for photographing dead people, preferably his victims. He is appropriately smarmy and coldly intelligent, but Law also makes him weirdly sexy, despite the yellowed teeth and thinning hair.

So I tell you again: If you must watch just one movie this year, make it "Road to Perdition." No other movie could challenge heart, mind and subconscious, or seduce the eyes, quite like this does.

Travels through the Islands (1)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

(Although published in 1916, Isabel Anderson's travels through the Philippines occurred earlier. She tells us an amusing, perhaps apocryphal, story about European attitudes although many Filipinos have at one time expressed similar sentiments.)

A CERTAIN General Anderson went to see Archbishop Nozaleda, the much-hated prelate after the Americans had taken Manila.

Anderson recalled: "He (the archbishop) remarked in the course of our conversation that when we took the city by storm he expected to see our soldiers kill the men and children and violate the women. But instead he praised us for having maintained perfect order. I quoted the Latin saying, '*Parcere subjectis, et debellare superbos.*' Which prompted him to say in Spanish to a Jesuit priest, 'Why, these people seem to be civilized.' To which the Jesuit replied, 'Yes, we have some colleges in their country.'"

Literally traveling from north to south, Isabel Anderson's party went off to view the famous rice terraces and wrote: "Curiously enough, the Bontoc Igorots have forest laws and a forest service of their own. The mountainsides of their rough country are sparsely timbered with pine, which has grown very sparse near some of the larger settlements. Forests in the vicinity of such settlements are divided up into small private holdings claimed by individuals, whose right thereto is recognized by the other members of the tribe. In many places it is forbidden to cut trees until they have reached a large size, although the lower branches are constantly trimmed off and used for firewood. Forest fires are kept down to facilitate reforestation, and young trees are planted. Such foresight on the part of a primitive people is highly unusual."

(Granting some allowance for Ms Anderson's remarks about "primitive" people, think about the development of Baguio as imposed by later Filipino lowlanders in league with developers who decided to convert that city into their image and likeness. Go search for pine trees. The word "primitive" best describes the lowlanders and not the people of the Cordilleras).

Ms Anderson's party then traveled by boat to Mindanao, to the areas of the Bagobos and Manobos. Now those who know the place better, tell me if it resembles the following description in any way (remember this was less than a century ago; we're not talking of the Middle Ages):

"It was a beautiful drive through this forest on the island of Mindanao. We first crossed open grassy uplands, then dipped down through the great glades of the most tropical forest I have ever seen, with towering hard woods and tree ferns, with bamboos and clinging air plants and orchids, and there was mystery and wonder about the giant growths. The trees seemed taller than the elms of New England or the cedars of Oregon. They dripped with huge-leafed, clinging vines, which grew higgledy-piggledy, covering everything. The grass, too, with waving purple tassels, grew higher than a man's head, twice as high as the pigmy brown people who have their houses in these trees."

(Just last week I read about a giant 200-year-old lauan tree in Negros that was confiscated from illegal loggers but not before they had managed to slice it up. It came from a reserved and restricted area. Now we obviously aren't talking here about some poor *kaingero* who doesn't have the high-power tools needed to bring down a tree that has lasted 200 years. Nor, we are certain, were the men caught with the illegal logs the masterminds either. Does anyone in the DENR care enough to pursue the real criminals here?)

Isabel Anderson described Cotabato at the turn of the 20th century. Think of it today and what we've done to Mindanao.

"Down this tropical river, where crocodiles dozed and monkeys chattered and parrots shrieked, there came a flotilla from the Arabian Nights, manned by galley slaves. On the masts and poles of one of the barges floated banners, and under the canopy of green sat a real princess. Some of the boats were only dugouts with outriggers, but they were decorated, too, and all the tribes were dressed in silks and velvets of the brightest colors.

There was great excitement and much cheering as we approached the landing stage and the troops stood at attention, while the rest of the shore was alive with the throng of natives in all the colors of the rainbow. The secretary inspected the troops, and we saw for the first time the Moro Constabulary, wearing turbans and sashes, but with bare legs; nevertheless, they looked very dashing. Indeed, the Moros were so different in character and appearance from any people we had seen before that they might as well have come down from the stars.

"The secretary was taken to meet the *datos*, as they stood in line beneath the great trees, with the motley crowds of retainers behind them, in such a medley of colors as I had never imagined before. The sunlight filtered through the trees upon the barbaric costumes, while the gaily dressed women stood behind the men and peered over them.

"There we saw Dato Piang and Gimbungen, a very fat dato—what a delightful bug-a-boo name—also Ynock, whose ear had been cut off in a fight, we were told; but strange as it may seem, he said he had clapped it onto his face again and tied it on, and it had grown there. So it hung attached somewhere down on his cheek, giving him a very peculiar appearance."

Five reasons why I'm still in school

YOUNG BLOOD

Reinna Maraya Icalina Bien

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

WHO the hell invented schools? Like any other sane student, I have often asked this question. In fact, I ask myself this question every time my mother rouses me from sleep and tells me it is time to prepare for school.

Don't get me wrong, I don't totally hate school. I mean, there are certain things about it that I like and actually look forward to. For one thing, I like the school programs, you know, with all those good-looking frat boys shaking their booties on stage. There are also the field trips, the fairs with all those free stuff and, believe it or not, I actually like a few (emphasis on few) of the professors (read: those who do not give surprise quizzes or chapters and chapters of reading assignments). Come to think of it, I like everything about school—except for the exams, quizzes, recitations, book reports, assignments. In other words, I hate anything that requires the use of even a small percentage of my already fast-diminishing intelligence.

From whatever angle I look at it, I can't see the logic behind requiring the youth to spend 17 to 18 years of their young lives studying. I can understand the need to study in elementary: a person needs to learn how to read, write and count after all. But high school? And college?

Life is short

Everybody says life is so short and one has to live it to the fullest. So I ask, can you live life to the fullest if the years of your life when you're strongest and healthiest are spent inside classrooms studying the equation of a circle or the composition of rocks? If we're actually to live life to the fullest, then we should be bungee jumping somewhere, running with lions in Africa, climbing Mt. Apo, seeing the castles of England or diving off some cliff in Acapulco at this very moment, and not sitting inside a room with a three-decade-old contraption our school administration has the gall to call an air-conditioning unit.

Now you're probably thinking, "If you hate school so much then why don't you just drop out?" The truth is, I've asked myself that question over and over again, and, after hours, days—even weeks—of soul searching, yoga and meditation, I've come up with five possible, but not really sensible, explanations as to why I tolerate school.

First is that my mother wants me to go to school, and in our house, nobody—and I mean nobody—messes with her. (This is not to say that my father is *ander de saya*, he just, well, he just lets my mom have her way).

Also, I have this gut feeling that if I were to refuse to go to school, she would get a gun, point it to my head and drag me into the classroom. I mean, the woman really freaks out when I skip school even for a day. She lectures me all day long about how important a good education is if you want to succeed in life, how education is the only thing she and my father can leave me since we're not really rich, how education is the only thing other people can't take away from me and all that stuff. So you can imagine how she would react if I told her I wanted to quit school altogether and become a spy.

Allowance

Reason number two would be the money. How else would I get P180 every day by just sitting inside a classroom and pretending to listen to boring professors give another ho-hum and sleep-inducing lecture? Let's face it, times are hard, and without the allowance I get for going to school, where else can I get the cash to pay for the food I eat, the movies I watch or the CDs I buy?

The third reason would be the BMW Z-9. Yes, that new and improved version of the BMW Z-8, the car that James Bond drove in "Tomorrow Never Dies." You see, I've found out that I have only three ways of owning that wonderful piece of machinery. One is if somebody is generous (or should I say dumb?) enough to give me P5 million, and two is if I win that much in the lottery. Since those two events are very unlikely to happen since (a) in a world full of idiots, there still is no one so moronic to give that so much money away and (b) I have never in my life placed a bet on the lottery, then I am left with only one option, which is to study hard, find a good job, and save a lot (actually several tons) of money.

The fourth reason I still am in school is that, like I said earlier, I want to be a spy, an agent of the Central Intelligence Agency to be exact. (Don't worry, readers. If I ever get to work for them and they ask me to spy on the Philippines, I'd resign on the spot.) From what I've read in Tom Clancy's novels, I don't think that the CIA does not accept college dropouts. And besides, only people with quick reflexes and sharp minds are invited to join the agency. What better way is there to develop lightning-fast reflexes and an alert observant mind than being always on the lookout for the cellphone snatchers, bag snatchers and pickpockets that roam Taft Avenue, Padre Faura and Pedro Gil?

Making Filipinos proud

The fifth reason is that I want to accomplish things that will make every Filipino proud, something that will make everyone in the world forget all the booboos the Philippines has made in the past and say: "Ah, the Filipino! Now that's a great race!" Call me an idealist, but I believe that in a country run by *trapos*, businessmen with more foreign blood than Filipino and a joke of a president (sorry if I offended any Gloria fans out there), I can still make a difference. But to do so I would need to know more than basic writing, reading and counting skills, hence the need for me to stay in school.

Let me summarize all those five points. I stay in school because I need to do so in order to fulfill my dreams and my hopes (and not to mention keep my mother happy).

Now, ladies and gentlemen, those are my five reasons, but like I said before, I don't think they make much sense. But, hey, so does school. I don't know why other students tolerate school and I can't expect any of them to have the same reasons like mine. But please, and I don't mean to sound like a naïve nationalist, let one of them be the same as my last.

Reinna Maraya Icalina Bien, 19, is a third year BA Social Science student at the University of the Philippines in Manila.

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Justice beyond national borders

THANK you so much to Michael Tan for his column on the International Criminal Court (ICC) not only for mentioning the comfort women but also for letting us know the ICC's significance to our lives and future as well as for all Filipinos.

As the ICC will not try "crimes of international concerns" retroactively, the comfort women case is clearly excluded from its coverage. But as victims of war crimes, Lila-Pilipina takes special interest in the ICC because we also believe this court will deter, if not discourage atrocities against humanity. In the past 10 years, we have not only struggled for justice but also for changes that ensure sexual slavery, as a "tool of war" will, not be used again by any one.

In today's context of wars being waged under the veil of ethnic cleansing, religious fundamentalism and war on terrorism, the creation of the ICC provides humanity another venue for victims to claim justice beyond national boundaries. We especially appreciate this new development because of our decade-long experience of seeking justice faced from the hardheaded government of Japan.

We thus urge President Macapagal-Arroyo and the Senate to support and immediately ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC. We challenge this government to uphold the true ideas of justice and democracy and stand up with the other 67 countries that have formally supported this court. Isn't curbing injustices an essential part of the so-called "strong republic"?

—RECHILDA EXTREMADURA, vice chairperson/coordinator, Lila-Pilipina Inc.

Time's correct circulation figures

I AM writing to bring to your attention a factual error on Time magazine's circulation in Victor C. Agustin's column "Cocktales" in the Aug. 19, 2002 issue of the INQUIRER.

In the column, Agustin quoted Antonio Lopez's assertion that "Ironically, at its end 2001 closure, Asiaweek was outselling Time magazine in the Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore."

This is incorrect. According to the last Audi Bureau of Circulations (ABC) Statements, at the time of Asiaweek's closure, Time outsold Asiaweek by a considerable amount in those countries. From January to June 2001, Time sold 39,493 copies in the Philippines, 24,185 in Malaysia and 32,278 in Singapore, while Asiaweek sold 21,307 in the Philippines, 22,096 in Malaysia and 14,873 in Singapore.

Time is Asia's leading international newsweekly with a circulation of 307,595 (ABC Statement Dec. 31, 2002) and is committed to delivering the highest standard of news to our readers and clients across the region. We hope that you will appraise your readers of Time's correct circulation figures.

—REGINA NG, senior vice president, Consumer Marketing Asia Pacific, 30/F Oxford House, Taikoo Place, 979 King's Road, Quarry Bay, HK

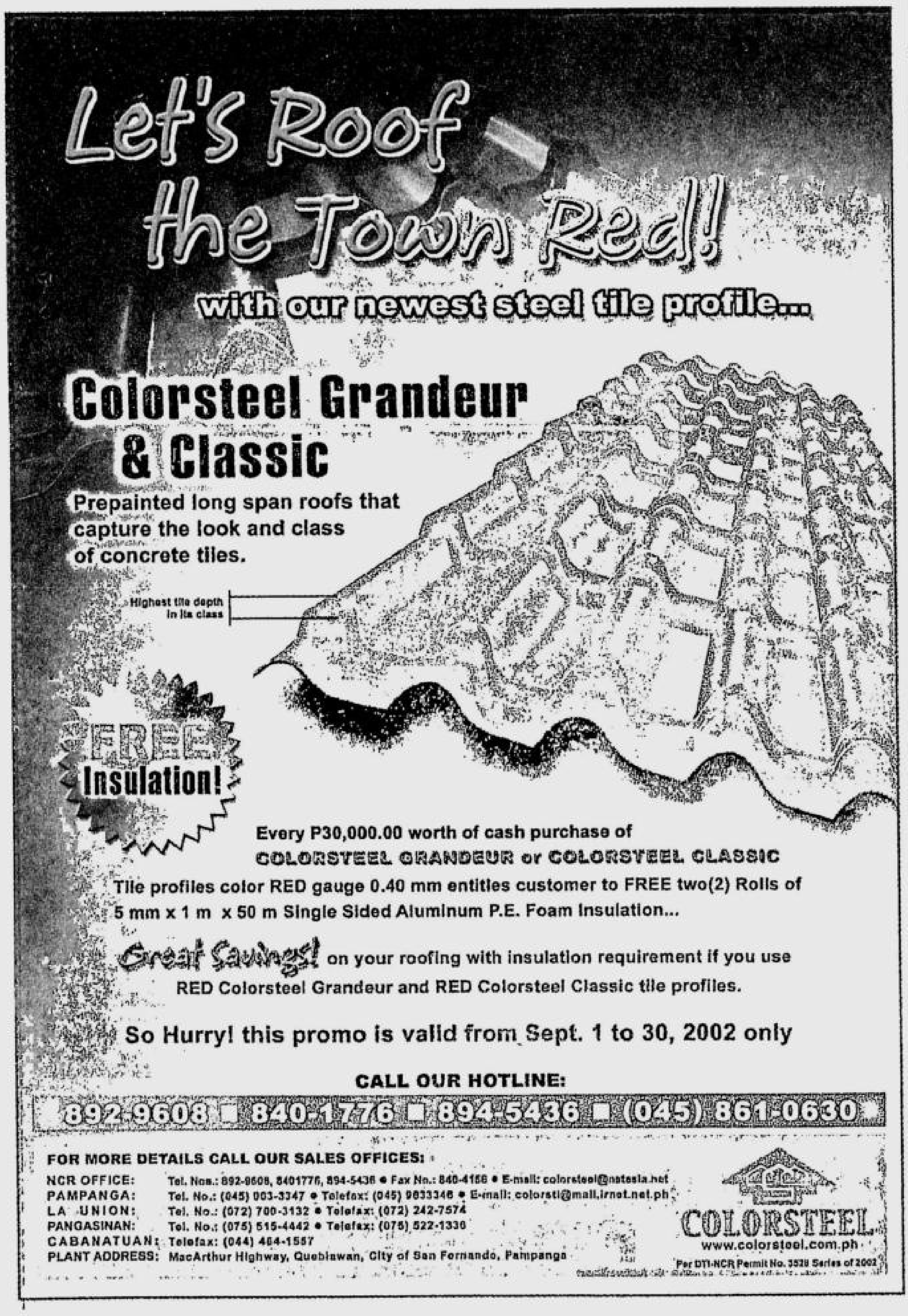
What happened to MRT park-and-ride scheme?

ONE of the most awaited conveniences of the MRT was that it would allow someone to park his car near an MRT station, and take the train to the office, just like in other places in the world. Whatever happened to this idea?

I live in Antipolo and work in Makati. There used to be a time when I could drive my car to Mandaluyong, park at a covered parking facility for P30 for the whole day, then take the train to Buendia. I found this very convenient, especially on the days when I could not use my car on account of the color-coding scheme.

However, avaricious mall owners now charge more than P100 for whole-day parking. So I have to bring my car all the way to the office, contributing to the congestion in our roads. I hope something will be done to resurrect this wonderful idea, which, sadly, seems to have been forgotten.

—MEL TIONGCO, Antipolo City



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Faces, voices

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

NEXT time you browse through back issues of National Geographic, look up the August 1985 issue showing a young Afghan girl, the one with piercing and haunting eyes.

The photograph was taken by Steve McCurry in a refugee camp in Pakistan. For years, she with the sad eyes was called the "Afghan Girl" because no one knew her name. Yet "Afghan Girl" so gripped people that the portrait ended up on posters and lapels.

After 9/11 last year and the new attention focused on Afghanistan, a National Geographic team went out to look for "Afghan Girl" and found her in a remote village in Afghanistan, now married with three daughters. Until the National Geographic team "rediscovered" her, she had never seen her cover portrait. As with many Afghan women, she now lived in purdah, sheltered from the gaze of men and outsiders. So strict was the purdah that National Geographic had to send a woman photographer to take new photographs, which were used in another story about her in the April 2002 issue of the magazine.

We will not hear from Sharbat Gula again. She was happy, we are told, to have been featured in National Geographic but she was not going to grant any more media interviews. Her family has since moved to another village and she has gone back to living in purdah.

Let me digress a bit. I worry about the images we get of 9/11, still dominated by those of the planes ramming into the World Trade Center, of Osama bin Laden preaching war, of Bush proclaiming war, of GMA piping in.

I wrote, last year, about how the images, horrific as they may be, are in fact sanitized. There is usually no audio, and the visuals—whether the rubble of the World Trade Center or of an Afghan village—rarely show the dead bodies, the grieving families.

There are no faces in these images. Sure you see people but their faces blur into an anonymous mass. If you do get faces, they're usually of angry soldiers and politicians, almost always male. There is no context to this war, except for the protagonists blaming each other, like little boys arguing, "He hit me first."

Meanwhile, women like Sharbat Gula remain behind the veil, in the background. Yet it is these women who are in the frontlines, who keep lives going as their husbands and sons go to war. As the wars come closer to their villages, they are the ones who have to take up the children and the elderly, seeking refuge in other villages or camps.

When Sharbat Gula's photograph was first taken in 1985, Afghanistan was at the height of a war with Russian occupation troops. The United States had intervened, covertly, supporting the mujahedin or "religious warriors" to fight the Russians. One of these US-supported mujahedin factions, the Taliban, took over in 1996, imposing a religious reign of terror for five years and allowing Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida to build a massive terrorist base.

Amid that war against the Russians, the young Sharbat Gula walked for two weeks to reach the camp in Pakistan. Seventeen years later, when she was shown her portrait in the National Geographic, she remembered the shoot because of the head covering, recalling it was full of holes because it had caught fire while she was cooking.

National Geographic did feature, perhaps inadvertently, another face of the Afghan, this time of a male. In a documentary about the zoo in Kabul, Afghanistan's capital, there are brief scenes featuring Sheragha Omar, an old man who had kept the zoo and its animals surviving through the war and the Taliban regime. Among the survivors was Marjan, a 25-year-old lion—very old in lion years—who has been blind for seven years, results of injuries from a grenade blast.

In one scene, the old man calls out to a very sick Marjan to coax him out of his den. The lion responds, and we see the old man helping him to step out into the sunlight. We see the old man comforting Marjan, stroking him like a child would a kitten. Two grand old lions comforting each other, I thought.

At the end of the day, Marjan is too weak to go back into his den and we see a team, including Sheragha Omar, carrying him back in a stretcher. Inside the den, the zoo director once again comforts the lion by rubbing its nose. The cameras catches one quick shot of the old man as he walks away from the den. We know, from that split-second shot of Sheragha Omar's troubled and grieving face, that he had just said goodbye to an old and dear friend.

This is not the usual face of Afghan men that we get in the media. Instead, we have an overdose of pictures of soldiers, no, murderous warriors, including young boys bearing heavy firearms. Wars are best fought by keeping the enemy faceless and mysterious. When faces of the other side do appear, they are selected to depict fury and hatred.

The faces, and the names—Sharbat Gula, Sheragha Omar—remind us of our common humanity, American or Afghan. Their faces remind us, too, of the need for Filipinos to occasionally turn off the shrill audio of commentators and reporters as they cover issues such as as the deportees from Malaysia. We do not hear enough from the deportees themselves, including their stories of why they had to leave their homes in Mindanao as early as the 1970s, to raise new families. We do not hear from those family members, including young men and women born and raised in Sabah, neither Filipino nor Malaysian.

"Their" faces blurred, "their" voices muted, we remain deaf and blind to the lessons of past wars and of 9/11, even as the beating of the new drums of war grows louder, and gets closer.

No intention to escape justice

MY name is Gamaliel Alba and my wife is Milagros Alba. We are the parents of Mark O. Alba, one of those being accused in the killing of Dr. Franklin Avellaneda on May 11, 2002.

Believing that our son Mark is innocent of the charges being alleged as well as believing in our justice system, we voluntarily surrendered Mark to the National Bureau of Investigation chief for the NCR, Edmund Arugay, and Director Reynaldo Wycoco on June 3. We submitted ourselves to the law fully and faced the agony and heartbreaking experience of seeing our son in jail although we knew he was innocent.

On July 29, Mark was released on bail not because of any connections and influence but because the fiscals, after carefully and scrupulously studying the case, filed the proper charges.

Some concerned individuals have written to your prestigious newspaper strong and angry opinions about Mark Alba, claiming he comes from a well-to-do and influential family, and that we would send our son out of the country to escape justice. They insinuated that our son was already guilty as charged.

On Aug. 26, you reported that a hold-departure order had been issued against Mark so he could not leave the country and thwarting the ends of justice.

We are not rich or influential. I am simply a guidance counselor and a pastor and my wife is a teacher.

I hope you understand that the voluntary surrender of our son was a clear indication that we do not intend to send him out of the country or prevent justice from being done.

To prove that we don't have any intention of sending our son out of the country to escape, we are willing to put him under the custody of the NBI, if need be, until the hearing of this case is over.

—GAMALIEL A. ALBA, Ph. 5/6, Blk.10 L3-A. Aguinaldo St., Pacita Complex I, San Pedro, Laguna

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DENR closes Cabuyao dumpsite

BARELY a week after ordering the closure of five open dumpsites in Parañaque City and Taytay, the environment department yesterday ordered a three-hectare dumpsite in Cabuyao town in Laguna closed.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez issued the order after the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) confirmed the operation of the dumpsite in Barangay Niugan.

The environment secretary chairs the NSWMC, a body created by the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2001, or RA 9003, which bans the operation of open dumpsites.

The open dumpsite was found to be operating within a 1,000-hectare agricultural area. The area is a mere one kilometer away from the Laguna de Bay, a protected area under the Laguna Lake Development Authority.

The NSWMC inspection team recommended the closure of the dump site until it can be converted or upgraded into a controlled disposal facility, which the Cabuyao town council similarly recommended. *Gerald G. Lacuarta*

GMA asked to call PPC summit

BACOLOD CITY—Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to convene a summit of the leaders of the ruling People Power Coalition to address the concerns of its members and to prevent a break-up.

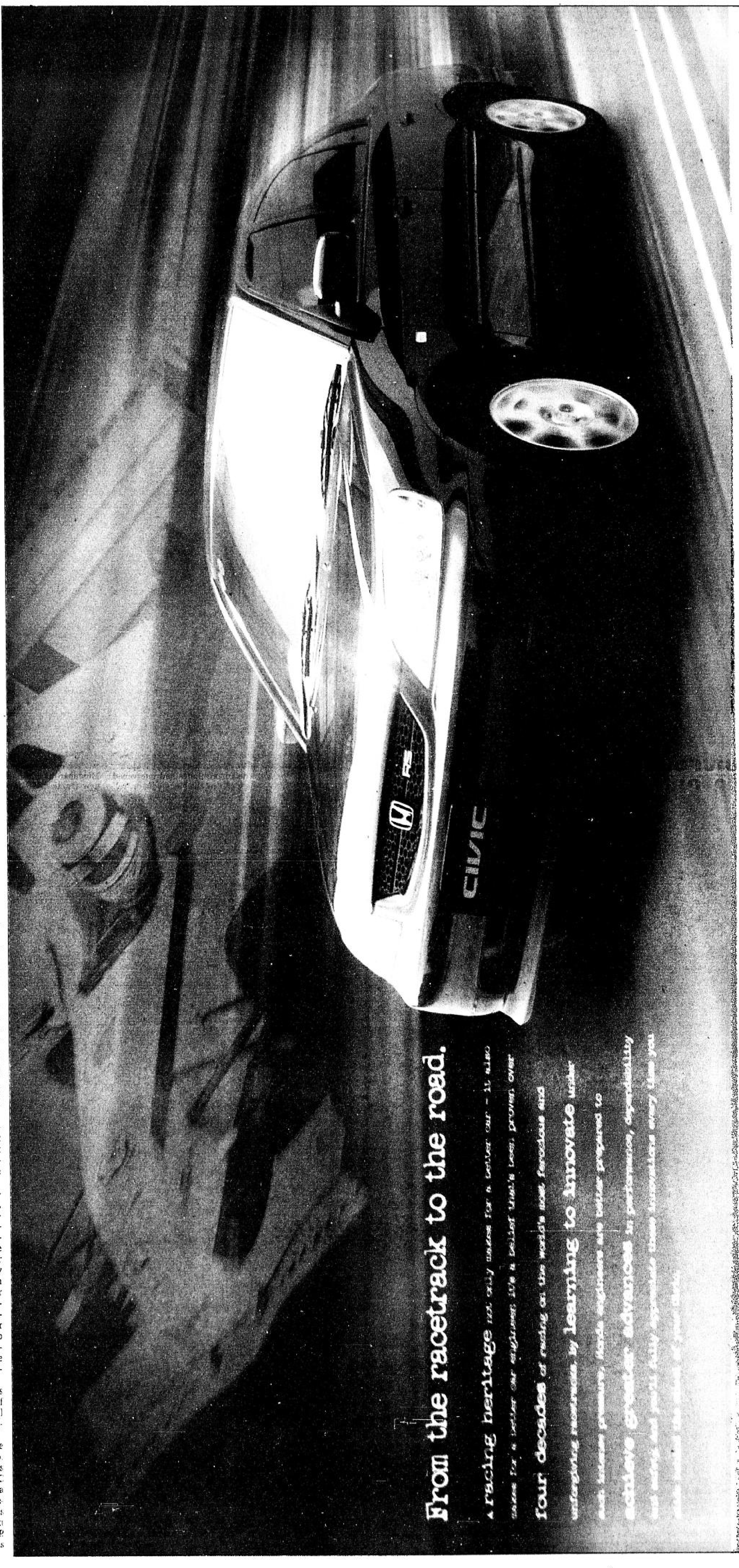
PPC members wanted their leaders to come out with guidelines on the status of the coalition, especially in the wake of reports that it was disintegrating, said Lozada, the PPC chair of Negros Occidental.

"There are so many concerns that must be clarified but at present the coalition is still intact," he said.

He said PPC leaders—among them, Lakas-NUCD represented by Vice President Teofisto Guingona and Speaker Jose De Venecia; former education secretary Raul Roco for Aksyon Demokratiko; former defense secretary Renato de Villa for Reporma; and former Cebu governor Lito Osmeña for Promdi—should assure members of the coalition's status.

He said members wanted to know if the coalition was still united or disintegrating.

Reports have quoted Bulacan Rep. William Villarama as saying that the PPC was heading for a split and that a realignment of forces could begin next year. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Maoists kill 65 more Nepal cops, soldiers

KATHMANDU—At least 65 policemen and soldiers were killed as Maoist rebels in Nepal launched a massive attack on security posts a day after executing nearly 50 security personnel in a raid in a different part of the country, state-run radio reported Monday.

Sources said that as many as 4,000 rebels were involved in the raids overnight at Sandhikharka in Arghakanchi district, 215 km southwest of Kathmandu.

The radio said the rebels attacked a police post, an Army camp and government offices in the town.

The fighting, which continued for seven hours, left 31 policemen, 17 armed police officers and 17 soldiers dead, it added.

Minister of State for Home Devendra Raj Kandel confirmed that 56 security force personnel had died, but said the toll could rise. He added that three policemen had been kidnapped as the rebels left.

They also shot at two Army helicopters slightly damaging them, the radio said.

Just 24 hours earlier, 49 policemen were lined up and shot in the head when 1,000 Maoist rebels attacked a police post at Bhimad in the eastern Sindhuli district, 85 km east of Kathmandu. Ten more were wounded

Kandel said that as many as 70 rebels could have been killed in those clashes.

Sunday's assaults were the first major rebel offensives since a 10-month state of emergency—imposed to combat the rebels—lapsed on Aug. 28.

Emergency rule was first introduced in November last year after the guerrillas broke a four-month ceasefire with the government and pulled out of peace talks.

At the same time the Royal Nepal Army was ordered into action against the rebels for the first time. *AFP*

Bush faces new int'l objections

WASHINGTON—The United States faced new international objections on Monday to unilateral military action against Iraq as President Jacques Chirac revealed that France was drafting a two-stage plan that could lead to UN authorization of military force against Baghdad.

According to British press reports, US President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair will give the United Nations a "last chance" to resolve the Iraqi problem peacefully.

Blair will challenge the United Nations to reassert its moral authority by giving Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein "one last chance" to readmit weapons inspectors before facing US-led military action, the Independent reported following a weekend Camp David summit between the two allies.

In Wellington, Prime Minister Helen Clark on Monday called for any military action against Iraq to be under UN mandate.

If the UN did mandate action, New Zealand would try to make a contribution, she said, while noting that the army was being reequipped and needed time to train its personnel.

"We don't wish to see unilateral intervention in Iraq. We think decisions about Iraq should be taken at UN level," Clark said.

Japan on Monday joined the international chorus calling for weapons inspectors to be allowed back into Iraq before the United States launched a military strike and suggested Washington would be unwise to act alone.

"It is important for the international community to step up pressure on Iraq to admit nuclear weapons inspectors and stop its development of weapons of mass destruction," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda said.

"In the current situation, now is the time to consider many things before a direct US attack on Iraq," Fukuda said.

"It is important to have the international community get together to have Iraq change its behavior," he added, hours before Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi was due to depart for a five-day visit to the United States which will include a meeting with Bush.

Canadian Deputy Prime Minister John Manley said his country would not support a US military operation against Iraq if it were aimed at toppling its government and Baghdad's terrorist connection was not clearly established.

"We have not signed on for the change-the-regime movement in Iraq," he told CTV television on the eve of a US-Canadian working summit in Detroit, Michigan, on Monday.

Chirac said that under the two-stage plan being drafted by France, a Security Council resolution would give Iraq a three-week deadline for readmitting UN inspectors "without restrictions or preconditions." *AFP*

TIDAL SURGE REUTERS

Spectators flee from a tidal surge at the Qiantangjiang River near Hangzhou, a coastal city in eastern China's Zhejiang province 167 km southwest of Shanghai, on Sept. 8. At least 10 tourists were injured by this powerful wave on Sunday and had to be treated at the hospital.

Arafat willing to give up executive powers

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Yasser Arafat told the Palestinian parliament on Monday that he condemned "every act of terror against Israeli civilians" and that he was willing to give up executive powers if asked.

It was not immediately clear whether he was seriously proposing stepping down or merely mocking his critics.

Arafat's appearance before the legislature, his first in 18 months, was considered a key test of his standing. He was seeking approval for a new Cabinet and for reform plans sought by the United States and Israel.

Arafat's popularity has plummeted in recent months. Shunned by the United States, he has largely been confined to his headquarters in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

In his speech Monday, Arafat said he condemned "every act of terror against Israeli civilians," but did not say explicitly that the attacks must be halted. He said such attacks served Israel's interest by drawing attention away from the suffering of the Palestinians under Israel's occupation. He asked legislators to uphold the national interest, but did not specify what this would mean.

A draft version of the speech obtained by The Associated Press contained several paragraphs in which he called for a ban on suicide bombings in Israel, but the speech Arafat delivered did not include such a call.

Arafat said the world expected from the Palestinians a "clear stance and firm answers regarding peace with Israel and the Israeli peace, as well as with regard to democracy and reforms in our society."

In an off-the-cuff remark, Arafat said that "if you would like to replace me in the executive powers, I wish you would do it and give me some rest."

The 88-seat legislature has convened only sporadically, and usually with a low turnout, during the past two years of fighting because of Israeli travel restrictions.

Israeli hardliners criticized Prime Minister Ariel Sharon for permitting the session to go ahead, arguing it would give new credibility to Arafat at a time when Israel is trying to sideline him. Sharon initially blocked the parliament meeting. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

9-11 rites in Southeast Asia

SINGAPORE—Twelve months after the Sept. 11 attacks, Southeast Asia has become known as the second front in Washington's war on terror. Amid tightened security and heightened anxiety across the region, Americans here will remember the attacks with church bells, memorial services and candlelight vigils. "This is clearly something no one will forget," said Joanne Blakemore, a native New Yorker who is helping organize memorial events in Singapore. "The day for me will be one of sadness but also commitment. A lot of people in this community lost someone or have friends who lost someone." Southeast Asia is home to many expatriates, and tens of thousands of local people have studied or worked in the United States. *AP*

Kurds unite

ISTANBUL—The two Kurdish groups that control northern Iraq agreed over the weekend to bury historic rivalry and form a united front to grasp the opportunities they see in US-led efforts to oust President Saddam Hussein. The joint declaration will please Washington, which has invested long years of diplomacy and military support to build northern Iraq into a bulwark against Saddam's administration. The predominantly Kurdish areas of northern Iraq have been outside Baghdad's direct control since they broke away from Saddam's government after the 1991 Gulf War. Their forces represent a major part of the Iraqi opposition alliance Washington has tried to build and two of the few opposition groups that are active within Iraq. *Reuters*

Hijack foiled

COLOMBO—A man armed with a knife tried to hijack an Air Seychelles Boeing 737 in mid-air Monday, but he was overpowered by cabin crew and arrested when the plane landed in the Maldives, officials said. The incident came just two days before the anniversary of the Sept. 11 hijackings in the United States, and Air Seychelles immediately called for an investigation into security at Bombay airport in India where the flight began. The man tried to enter the cockpit of the plane, but he was tackled by a cabin crew member who received minor injuries, Maldivian Director General of Civil Aviation Mahmood Razi said. "The drama had ended by the time the aircraft landed at the Male International Airport," Razi said by telephone from the Maldivian capital Male. "We have arrested one man who is in the custody of the police. We are not sure of his nationality." *AFP*

Jerry Lewis collapses backstage

LONDON—Comedian Jerry Lewis, suffering recently from severe back pain and other health problems, collapsed backstage at a charity show and was unable to perform, the show's master of ceremonies said Monday. Steven Alan Green, MC at the High on Laughter benefit at the Palladium theater, announced to the audience that Lewis, 76, would not be able to participate because he was unwell. "I saw him collapse backstage out of the corner of my eye," Green said Monday. "He was watching the screen clips of an earlier show of his behind the stage when he just sat back. I hope it's nothing too serious." *Reuters*

9 die in Kashmir violence

JAMMU, India—At least nine people, including three police officers, were killed as suspected Islamic militants intensified attacks ahead of elections in Indian-controlled Kashmir, police said Monday. Gunmen barged into two Hindu homes in the village of Doodasan Pain on Sunday night and fired indiscriminately, killing two women and three men, Superintendent of Police Subhash Raina said. Another family member was severely wounded in the attack, Raina said. Doodasan Pain is about 110 km northwest of Jammu, the winter capital of Jammu-Kashmir state. *AP*

Egypt military court convicts 51 militants

HAEKSTEP, Egypt—A military court found 51 men guilty and punished them with sentences ranging from two to 15 years in one of Egypt's biggest Islamic militancy cases in years.

In all, 94 men were tried. The main defendants were charged with founding an illegal group that planned to assassinate President Hosni Mubarak and other public figures and to attack government institutions.

Three received the harshest sentences of 15 years: Egyptians Magdi Hassan Idris, 33 and Omar Abdel-Aziz Khalifa, 36; and Daghestani Omar Hagayev Mahdi, 36. Idris and Khalifa were charged with financing an illegal group established to assassinate public figures. Idris also was charged with possessing ammunition and getting unauthorized military training abroad. Mahdi was charged with belonging to an illegal group and owning and manufacturing explosives and a detonator.

Military court verdicts cannot be appealed to a higher court. They can be overturned only by Mubarak.

Among the 43 found innocent were two Muslim preachers prosecutors had said were leaders of the group—sheiks Fawzi al-Said and Nashaat Ibrahim.

The judge read his verdicts and sentences so quietly that none of the defendants, sitting calmly in a metal cage in the courtroom on this military base, appeared to hear. The 88 in custody—six were tried in absentia, one of whom was acquitted—were in the courtroom, all wearing white prison uniforms.

Charges included belonging to the group, possessing explosives and ammunition, raising funds without authorization for Muslim rebels in Chechnya and Hamas militants in the Palestinian territories and receiving overseas military training without government authorization.

Prosecutors dubbed the group al-Wa'ad—or "The Promise" —and said it was a new militant organization.

Defense lawyers had said their clients were first accused of raising funds for Muslim fighters. *AP*

Afghans remember legendary mujahideen

KABUL—Thousands of Afghans crowded into Kabul's main sports stadium on Monday and black flags flew on shops and houses to mark the first anniversary of the assassination of legendary resistance leader Ahmad Shah Masood.

The colorful celebrations come four days after Afghan President Hamid Karzai narrowly escaped an attempt on his life and a huge car bomb went off in a busy Kabul district killing up to 26 people and wounding 150.

Security around the stadium was tight, with Afghan police working alongside the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) peacekeepers inside and outside the arena.

Two ISAF helicopters hovered above the hills overlooking the stadium.

Hundreds of green, red and black flags of Afghanistan flew, and Masood's 13-year-old son Ahmad sat alone, sheltering from the sun beneath an umbrella, under a huge portrait of his father.

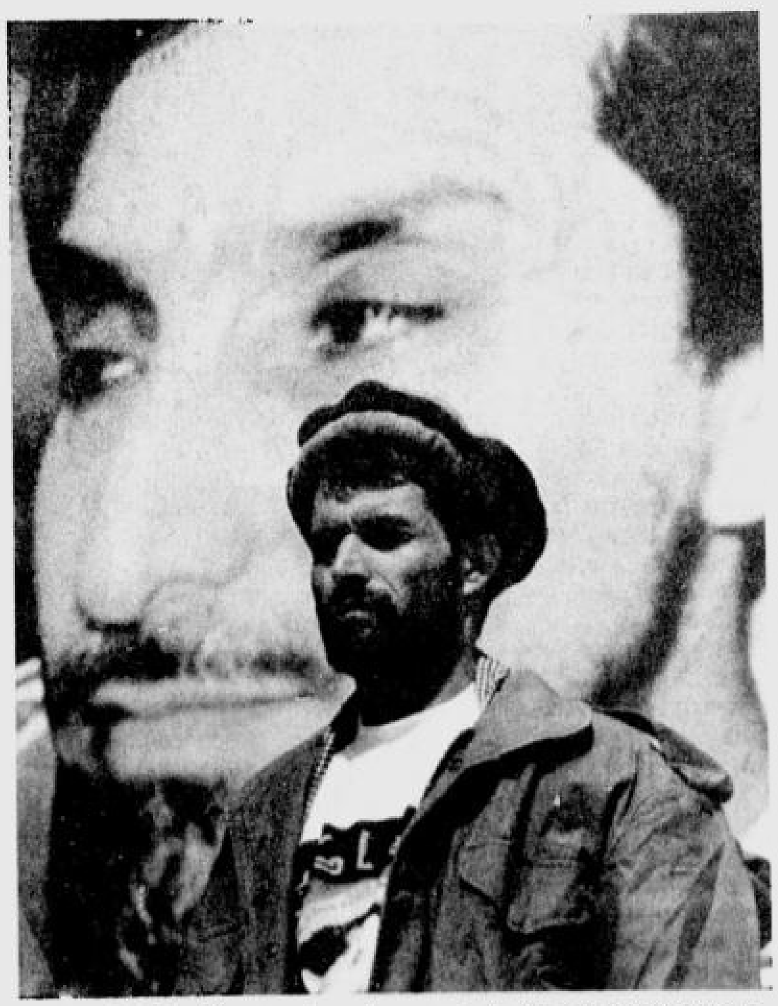
Defense Minister Mohammad Qasim Fahim, Masood's former intelligence chief in the Northern Alliance movement which fought the Taliban, paid tribute to the inspirational leader who died aged 48 near the Tajik border in a bomb attack triggered by two suspected al-Qaida operatives posing at journalists.

Many people suspect the attack was planned by Osama bin Laden, just two days before the Sept. 11 attacks, to win favor with the Taliban.

"Despite all the difficulties he faced, he never gave up," said Fahim, dressed in a dark civilian suit.

"He was the one who resisted the Taliban and al-Qaida terrorist network for five and a half years and guided his people toward prosperity and freedom."

The crowd of more than 10,000, consisting mainly of soldiers and schoolchildren, broke out into occasional applause and shouting in the stadium, where only a year ago the Taliban would carry out public executions. *Reuters*



AN AFGHAN soldier stands under a portrait of legendary Northern Alliance commander Ahmad Shah Masood, assassinated last year by al-Qaida operatives, at Kabul's stadium on Sept. 9. REUTERS

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CL police say 'jueteng' eradicated in 1 month

By **Tonette Orejas**
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Central Luzon will be "100 percent jueteng-free" in a month.

Thus promised Chief Supt. Oscar Calderon, the new regional police director. His promise, coming on the heels of another campaign against illegal gambling ordered by Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr., was received with both skepticism and optimism.

Central Luzon, now comprised of seven provinces with the addition of Aurora, has been the base of large-scale jueteng operations for more than three decades.

Suspected jueteng lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda had reigned in the region until the juetengate scandal rattled and ousted President Joseph Estrada, his supposed patron, by the end of 2000.

Calderon, who assumed the post last July from Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, one of seven police officials relieved for their alleged failure to stop jueteng in their areas, sounded off his optimism on the renewed anti-illegal gambling drive.

Calderon said Tarlac and Aurora and Olongapo City were declared by their respective provincial police officials as "80-percent jueteng-free."

"In two weeks to a month's time, the region is expected to be totally rid of jueteng," Calderon said, speaking through phone from Nueva Ecija.

But of the seven provinces, Calderon had anticipated difficulties in Pampanga and Bulacan because of the "complexities" of jueteng operations there.

Unlike other provinces, Pampanga and Bulacan have several small jueteng financiers, simultaneously running the game in a guerrilla-like manner and sharing the same turf, it was learned.

That scheme requires a constant shift in bases of operations, including changes in places where three regular draws are held daily.

In a report, Calderon said jueteng still exists in Orani, Mariveles, Limay and Bagac towns in Bataan and in Plaridel, Balagtas, San Ildefonso, Paombong, San Miguel, Guiguinto, San Rafael, Angat, Marilao, Malolos and Pandi towns in Bulacan.

Bets are still being wagered in the City of San Fernando, Mabalacat, Mexico, Guagua, Magalang, Candaba and Minalin towns in Pampanga.

The illegal numbers game is still being played in Sta. Cruz and San Felipe towns in Zambales.

Jueteng is still operated in Llanera and General Natividad towns in Nueva Ecija, the report said.

Senior Supt. Angelito Paciam, Angeles City police director, reported that the racket has "totally ceased."

The report only named the operators of jueteng in Pampanga—Melchor Caluag, also known as Ngo-ngo, and Ruben Pineda, the brother of Bong Pineda.

Caluag is also the barangay captain of Dolores, the commercial and business district of Pampanga.

According to police records, Caluag had spent almost P2 million to bail out his more than 100 jueteng collectors and managers who had been arrested since July.

According to the report, 479 jueteng collectors and managers were arrested in 68 raids between Sept. 1 and 6.

Rebel 'hunter' abducted, slain

ANGELES CITY—A city police official, who earned the reputation of being a New People's Army hunter, was abducted and killed by armed men Sunday.

Senior Insp. Isabelito Bernardez, deputy commander of the city police's Station 5, was found dead Monday in a grassy lot in St. Benedict Heights in the City of San Fernando, south of Angeles.

Senior Supt. Angelito Pacia, Angeles City police chief, said three men took Bernardez, 48, at gunpoint from his family-owned videoke bar on Fields Avenue Sunday night.

The assassins timed the abduction while the entire strip suffered a blackout, Pacia said.

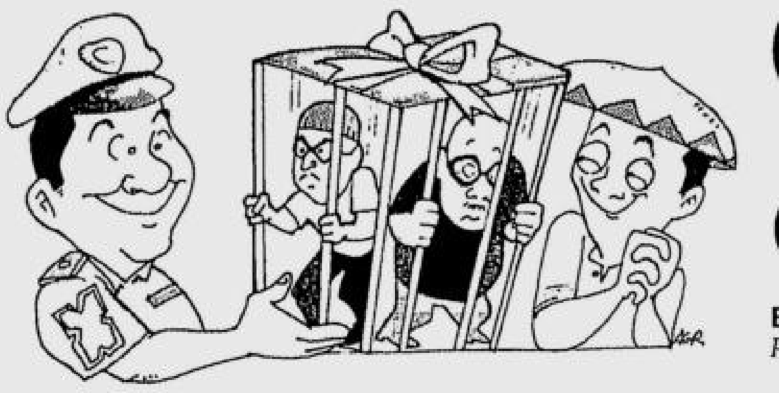
Bernardez's Kia car, which his abductors used, was found some 2 km away from the San Simon, Pampanga, exit of the North Luzon Expressway on Sunday night.

Pacia said Bernardez's body bore cuts in the head, upper left eye and abdomen. The body had no bullet wounds, he added.

The suspects took Bernardez's P100,000 cash that the official would use for the repair of karaoke machines. They did not take his service pistol.

Pacia said they had identified the suspects in the killing but declined to say yet if these included NPA rebels.

Bernardez was said to have been effective in intelligence operations against communist rebels. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



PNP promises crime solution as Xmas gift

DAGUPAN CITY—Police are offering a Christmas gift to the Filipino people: The solution of major crimes in the country.

Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., Philippine National Police chief, said the big crime syndicates are already falling one by one and he is hopeful that by December, the syndicates would have been wiped out.

He also promised not to stop the campaign "until rascals in uniform are arrested and brought to justice."

"Until the streets have been won, and our families are safe, your (police) are on alert and in action," Ebdane said here Sunday.

Ebdane, who was Dagupan police chief in 1972 and Pangasinan police director in 1991, was here on Sunday to attend the awarding ceremonies of a shootfest and a testimonial dinner hosted by the Dagupan Practical Shooting Association.

He said four of 21 major kidnap-for-ransom groups and other small groups have been "neutralized."

"We are targeting 64 members of the kidnapping groups but I think that after one year, we would have accounted for more than 500," he said.

Ebdane said the police have also identified shops where stolen vehicles were torn apart and their parts sold.

He said they have arrested some members of the PNP's Traffic Management Group who were involved in car thefts.

The police, he said, have also busted drug syndicates who bring in chemists from China and employ them in shabu manufacturing laboratories in the country.

He credited the cooperation of citizens in the PNP's campaign against crime.

"Two months after the change of command, (the) public perception is (that) the PNP is gaining the upperhand against the criminals. We are hearing more crimes reported by our citizens. And most importantly, more citizens are coming forward with information that have been crucial in some of the arrests," he said. *Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Mayor calls suspension 'politically motivated'

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Pampanga provincial board on Monday recommended the suspension for 60 days of Minalin Mayor Edgar Flores for alleged graft.

The mayor's supporters, however, called the move "politically motivated" and claimed that it would benefit Gov. Manuel Lapid's son.

Cesar Magat, chair of the Association of Barangay Captains in Minalin, assailed the board's decision in the administrative case filed by several Minalin councilors.

In a statement, Magat said Lapid and his son Mark, a barangay captain in Porac town, have shown "political interest" in the case.

It involved the alleged overpriced purchase of 20 handheld radios by Flores last year.

Magat said the governor "used the case to pressure Flores to convince me (Magat) to back out from the ABC (provincial) federation election this month."

The young Lapid and Magat are vying for the top post of the province's ABC federation.

Board Member Ferdinand Labung, chair of the board's committee on justice, said neither the governor nor his son had lobbied for Flores' suspension.

Labung said the suspension takes effect if Lapid approves the board's recommendation. The governor, through a provision of the Local Government Code, has the sole prerogative to uphold or overturn the board's decision in administrative cases.

Labung clarified that the suspension was "not a punishment" but an assurance for an impartial investigation and a deterrent to Flores' possible influence in the case.

The motive of the board also came under suspicion, with a few officials noting that it would also favor Vice Mayor Arturo Naguit, an ally of Vice Gov. Juan Miguel Arroyo.

Arroyo, interviewed after the regular board session on Monday, denied having meddled in the case on behalf of his friend.

The board approved the decision after it denied the motion of Flores' lawyer to dismiss the case for lack of jurisdiction.

Lawyer Cicero Punzalan said the board has no authority over the case since the complainants first filed the graft case before the Office of the Ombudsman on Dec. 7 last year. The same case was filed before the provincial board on Dec. 19. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Town taps Nur Misuari men in militias against criminality

COTABATO CITY—Military and local government officials in Pikit, Cotabato have tapped former rebels to help secure the town.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said he was happy about the use of Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) members, who were not integrated into the police or the military, as militiamen.

More than half of the estimated 20,000 MNLF members have returned to their places of origin after their chair, Nur Misuari, entered into a peace agreement with the government in 1996.

Most of them have found livelihood in small farming and other projects provided by the government and foreign donors, including the United Nations Development Program.

Mayor Farida Malingco said the MNLF members would comprise a corps of "fully armed civilian volunteers" who would help authorities fight lawlessness even without compensation.

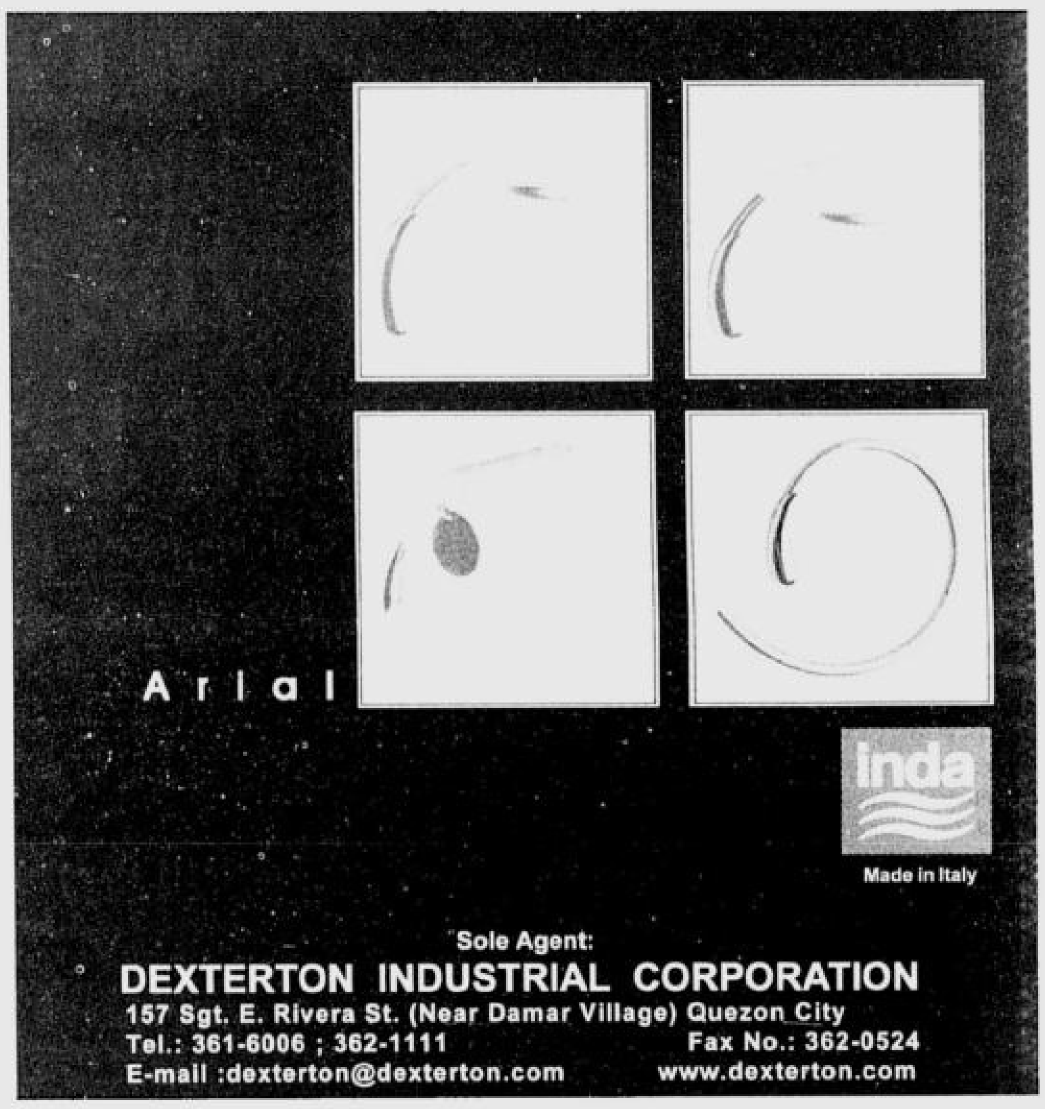
Malingco said the volunteers would be fielded to their own villages after a 15-day training on discipline, proper use of firearms and other basic lessons on civil-military activities.

Brig. Gen. Generoso Senga, commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the entry of the MNLF men into efforts against criminality was part of the 1996 peace agreement.

Malingco said the appointment of MNLF men as peacekeepers did not exempt them from being in the government's watch list of probable troublemakers.

She urged villagers to help monitor and report abuses.

"They are accountable not only to the military...but also to local government units to which they belong," Malingco said. *Charlie C. Senase and Jeffrey M. Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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US soldier with gun in mall arrested

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—An American soldier was arrested on Sunday for carrying an unlicensed handgun inside a shopping mall in Iloilo City.

Kenneth Johnson, 29, a resident of 123 Ridge Road, Kingston, Tennessee, was arrested by policemen in Mandurriao District here after he refused to turn over a handgun tucked in his waist at the entrance of the SM City mall.

SPO1 Pablito Ojana said Johnson was arrested at 4:35 p.m. at the office of the security personnel of the shopping mall. Police recovered an Austrian-made Glock 9 mm pistol with 21 hollow-point bullets in two magazines.

Ojana said Johnson could not present documents for the firearm. He asked policemen to accompany him to Room 407 of the Barcelo Sarabia Manor Hotel where he was staying.

But in the hotel room, Johnson only presented ID that showed he was a member of the United States Army with the rank of private first class.

He said the firearm was a property of the US government. The ID, issued June 23, 1998, however, expired on June 17, 2001.

Senior Insp. Uldarico Garbanzos, Mandurriao police chief, said Johnson offered to bribe the arresting police officers.

"He asked them 'how much' in exchange for releasing him," he claimed. "He refused to enter the detention cell and only followed us when we told him we would forcibly place him inside the cell."

Johnson, who was described by policemen as "rude and arrogant," refused to be interviewed by reporters. He did not also answer questions from investigators, saying he would wait for a representative from the US Embassy.

Garbanzos said a representative of the US Embassy whom he failed to identify called him to verify reports of the arrest but refused to comment on Johnson's American citizenship.

The police officer said they would file a case of illegal possession of firearms at the city prosecutor's office against Johnson.

Jail officials fired for escape

DAVAO CITY—The warden and three guards of the Tagum City jail have been relieved from their posts following the escape of 17 prisoners last week.

Senior Supt. Timostocles Jamesulamen, assistant regional director for the Bureau of Jail and Management Penology, said jail warden Gil Delima, and guards Marlon Carillo, Glen Maracion and Mario Balon, are also facing administrative charges.

Jamesulamen said the four were held liable for negligence of duty when the inmates escaped noon of Aug. 31.

The escapees were reported to have escaped during Mass held for the prisoners and about 40 visitors.

It was also only Maracion who was manning the main gate at the time. Delima was not around when the jailbreak happened.

The prisoners forced their way to the gate as one of them disarmed Maracion of his .38 cal. revolver and hit his head with an iron pipe.

Balon, the other jail guard, fired warning shots but the prisoners fled just the same. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ANTI-PIRACY DRIVE

Cebu mayor hits actor for 'gimmickry'

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—This city's mayor has withdrawn support for the anti-piracy campaign of the Videogram Regulatory Board, accusing the board's chair, actor Bong Revilla, of using the campaign to promote his political career.

"I won't go out of my way . . . just (to) make somebody become senator of the Philippines . . .," Mayor Tomas Osmeña told City Hall reporters last week.

Revilla visited Cebu last month and was photographed crushing confiscated pirated CDs, VCDs and DVDs.

But the mayor said he was disappointed with Revilla when the VRB failed to deputize City Hall in the campaign against piracy. He said Revilla also failed to act on his request to reduce the number of original CDs a trader would be required to sell in order to get a VRB accreditation.

The mayor, on behalf of the CD/VCD/DVD traders in the city, earlier asked Revilla that the amount of original CDs that vendors are allowed to sell be reduced from 500 to 50 for them to be granted business permits. But the VRB ignored the mayor's request.

"Ini'g abot niya dinhi, iyang tan-aw siya nalang ang bida. (Every time he comes here he thinks he is the star)," said the mayor.

He said Revilla could just be using the VRB for his bid for the Senate in next year's elections.

Osmeña said that he did not like the impression he was getting that Revilla just wanted publicity by crushing the pirated VCDs before photographers.

Osmeña said Revilla could still destroy seized pirated CDs by scratching them and not make a show by crushing them with heavy equipment.

Revilla, in an interview over dyLA, said he was hurt by the mayor's statements.

He said he did not know of any wrong he had done against the mayor. *"Anong atraso ko sa kanya? Bakit parang na-memersonal?* (What have I done to him? Why is he taking this personally?) I think we should set aside politics here . . .," he said.

"For me to use the VRB so that I can run for senator is not true. God knows that is not true," Revilla added.

Revilla admitted that his father, Sen. Ramon Revilla Sr., is wooing him to run for senator but the actor said he has not made any decision yet.

He said he believed that the campaign against piracy "is no joke" and "I want to concentrate on this."

OSMEÑA, T.

Sell tuna to Chinese, says Gloria

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo has discouraged local tuna producers here from depending too much on the US market.

Ms Macapagal told participants to the 4th Tuna Congress here Thursday that there was a bigger market—China.

"While your government is working hard for an even playing field for your tuna products, try exploring other markets abroad," the President said.

Ms Macapagal said China has 1.3 billion people, which makes it a potential alternative to the US market.

Earlier, the US Congress removed tariff barriers on canned tuna from Andean countries, a move seen by local tuna producers as detrimental to the industry.

The decision came about even as the Macapagal administration lobbied hard for the non-approval of the Andean bill.

But the President said she was thankful to some US legislators, including Senators Hilary Clinton and Daniel Inouye, for leading the so-called Philippine Caucus, a group of American legislators in the US Congress protecting Philippine interests.

The members of this group, the President claimed, were very vocal in protecting Philippine interests during the debate for the Andean Bill.

Ms Macapagal asked local tuna producers to pass a resolution, which urges the members of the US Congress, particularly those comprising the Philippine Caucus, to work harder in protecting the Philippine tuna industry.

As this developed, the President said that her administration was making headway in securing bilateral agreements with other countries to expand the country's fishing access.

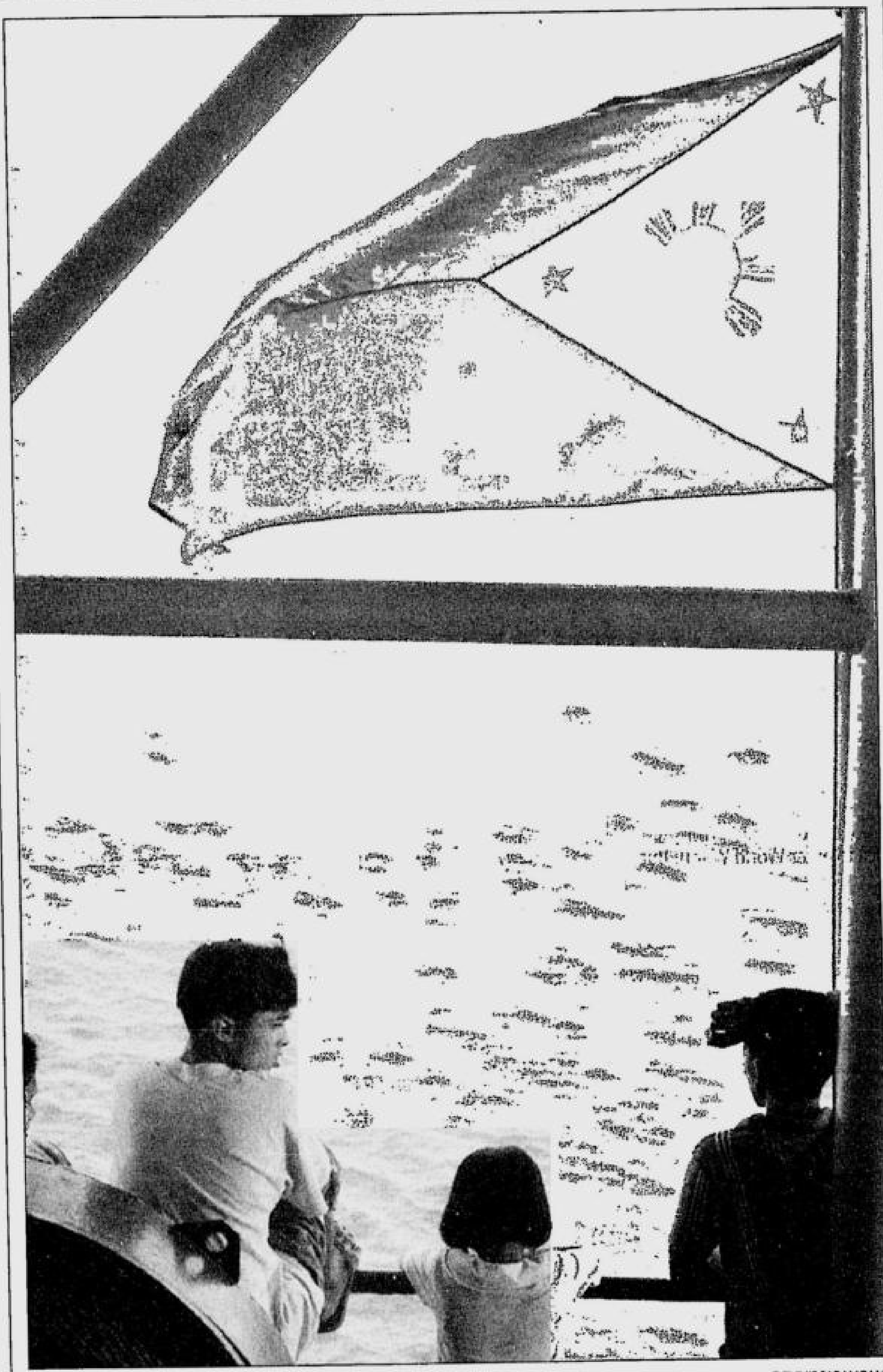
One classic example was the finalization of a bilateral agreement with Indonesia regarding the grant of fishing access to Philippine tuna fishing operators in the Identified Exclusive Economic Zones (IEEZ) of Sulawesi Sea.

The agreement allows 75 catcher vessels, also known as mother boats, along with 450 carrier or service boats, to operate in the designated Indonesian waters.

The agreement also granted the same access to 10 single seines and 20 fishing vessels using the long-line method in catching tuna to operate in the specified Indonesian fishing grounds.

Ms Macapagal said with the signing of the agreement, the government was expecting to generate 20,000 new job opportunities.

The President said helping the tuna industry would not just boost the national economy, but also help achieve her vision of a strong republic. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



DENNIS SABANGAN

FLAG CARRIER
Filipinos deported from Sabah take the tedious trip home on board the Philippine Navy Ship BRB Bacolod. The flag of their home country, from which they fled to find jobs in the Malaysian-occupied island territory, flies proudly above their heads.

NBI orders hunt for illegal recruiters

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The National Bureau of Investigation on Friday ordered a manhunt for the officers of a labor recruitment company to force them to return placement fees to some 300 people whom the firm promised jobs abroad.

Samuel Fiji, NBI Central Luzon director, said they received reports that the officers of the All Stars International Placement and Promotions Agency Inc., including its president, Filma Sayson, have fled to the United Arab Emirates and other countries.

Fiji said the NBI uncovered what appeared to be a large-scale illegal recruitment racket after Delia Callagas, wife of a Philippine Air Force sergeant, turned over two bags purportedly owned by Sayson.

Callagas turned over the bags to the NBI on Thursday when Sayson, after borrowing P2,000 from her since July, had not returned to pay and take her belongings.

According to Fiji, the bags contained newly issued passports and accomplished application forms for jobs abroad.

The passports were issued by the consular offices of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila, the Visayas, La Union, Pampanga and Zamboanga and Davao cities, Fiji said.

The application forms were for various jobs in Korea, London, Dubai, Riyadh, United States, Taiwan and Kuwait.

The applicants paid P100,000-P300,000, it was learned.

"The fees run to millions (of pesos)," Fiji said.

He said the agency's permit No. 352-LB-080100-ML, issued by the POEA, expired on Sept. 2. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

ROUNDUP

Lawmen slain

CAMP DANGWA, Benguet—A policeman and an intelligence agent were killed in separate gunfights with robbers in Benguet, and with suspected communist rebels in Pampanga, on Monday and Sunday last week, reports said. PO2 Anastacio Salve Jr. was killed after police engaged two suspected robbers in a gunfight along the Bako-Kelley Road in Itogon, Benguet. Salve died from seven bullet wounds in the body. A policeman and a village guard were wounded in the gunfight, police said. In Pampanga, a civilian intelligence agent was killed while two Army soldiers and a policeman were wounded in an ambush by suspected communist rebels in Lubao town on Sept. 1. The attack in Barangay San Jose Hapunan killed Enrique Camurungan and wounded Army Sgt. Mamerto Garcia, Army Cpl. Ricardo Rumbaoa and SPO4 Virgilio Garcia, a report said. The four were on board a jeep when the suspects fired at them. *Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Casecnan secured

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Army soldiers were sent to secure the Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Plant (CMIPP) in the boundary of Nueva Vizcaya and Nueva Ecija following reports the New People's Army was preparing to attack the facility. Col. Jovenal Narcise, chief of the Army's 702 Infantry Brigade, said the move came after soldiers from the Army's 71st Infantry Battalion arrested suspected NPA rebel Terio Agub and seized his two unlicensed firearms. Narcise said Agub is the NPA's "lookout" in Barangay Naglanok in Carranglan, Nueva Ecija, where he was arrested. Narcise said the operations were "pro-active measures to secure the environs of the Casecnan project." *Tonette Orejas and Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Police brouhaha

LEGAZPI CITY—This city's police chief, Senior Supt. Francisco Uyami, became the subject of a blotter by one of his men on Wednesday after he refused to issue a gasoline slip for the station's patrol car. This was to put the matter on record so they would not be blamed in case of failure to immediately respond to a call for emergency police assistance. When he heard about this on radio, Bicol police spokesperson Senior Supt. Leon Pangilinan said "it's not new that we run out of gasoline." Bicol police director Chief Supt. Enrique Galang admitted that this city's police station is not the only one that runs short of money for gasoline but the entire Bicol region as well. *Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Drought measures

LEGAZPI CITY—The Regional Disaster Coordinating Council met here on Wednesday to draw up measures to address the coming El Niño. Although the country's weather bureau announced that the El Niño will be "weak," the council opted to prepare to battle the phenomenon. Assistant regional director Pedro Oco Jr. of the Department of Agriculture feared El Niño would last until June 2003 saying farmers may not be able to plant during the time and major dams in the region may not be able to store enough water for farms. *Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Trader slain

CALAMBA CITY—A businessman aboard a Mitsubishi Pajero was shot dead by one of four men on board a car as a result of a heated traffic dispute along the Maharlika Highway in Barangay Makiling this city, last week. The victim, Erwin Aquino, 43, of Lemery, Batangas, was declared dead on arrival at the St. Cabrini Hospital in Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

IN THE DARK

Ecija town officials to sue Napocor for outages

CARRANGLAN, Nueva Ecija—Local officials are preparing charges against officials of the National Power Corp. (Napocor) for the series of power outages that continue to pester residents here.

Mayor Luvimindo Otic said the town's perennial problem on long power outages has been aggravated by the Napocor's alleged refusal to grant Carranglan the appropriate incentives as a watershed for one of its hydroelectric power plants.

"I have talked to our other officials and they were one in saying that it is about time that we go to court," Otic said. "We have long been complaining about this problem, but they (Napocor officials) would not listen. They would often resort to finger-pointing."

The move came following the latest two-day blackout that hit the entire town starting Wednesday. Officials said the power outage affected more than 26,000 residents in 12 barangays of this town, 200 km north of Metro Manila.

Such prolonged outages have come almost on a weekly basis, residents said.

"What's even more disgusting is that they (Napocor officials) never explain to us the reasons for these blackouts. Everybody starts to speculate. We don't get to know whether somebody's attending to the problem," Otic told the INQUIRER.

Gloryphine Maglanoc, finance officer of the Nueva Ecija Electric Cooperative (Neeco) II office, said the latest outage was caused by downed Napocor power lines.

It normally takes a day or two for linemen to restore power, as the Napocor lines are laid out deep in the forests of the Caraballo hinterlands, Maglanoc said.

Insp. Mario Rivera, deputy police chief, however, was quick to dispel reports that the blackouts were the work of communist rebels who are out to sabotage Napocor power lines.

Otic said the local government receives not even a single centavo from the Napocor or the National Irrigation Administration for the use of the two agencies of rivers in the area for power and irrigation. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

3 more battalions sent to pursue Abu bandits

From page A1

ARMY soldiers await action against the Abu Sayyaf in Barangay Taglibi in Patikul, Sulu. DENNIS SABANGAN

The reinforcement will increase to 15 the number of battalions stationed in Sulu. A brigade has three battalions.

Carolina refused to give more details of the ongoing deployment of troops but said more bandits were killed in an encounter with soldiers on Friday.

Gen. Roy Cimatu, outgoing AFP chief of staff, said more than 20 bandits were killed in the six-hour clash. He based his figures on accounts given by wounded soldiers being treated at the Camp Navarro Hospital inside the Southcom headquarters.

"It was a face-to-face fight, so they saw more bandits fall, but the bandits were dragged by their comrades," Cimatu said.

Maj. General Glicerio Sua, Task Force Comet chief, said the soldiers, who were about 15 meters away from the bandits, managed to hold their ground.

Four of the 14 wounded soldiers are in the intensive care unit of the Southcom hospital. They were identified as Privates First Class Romel Lopez, Basar Dansalan and Ricky Picpic, and Cpl. Rolly Ratificar.

American doctors

American military doctors Todd Swathwood, Maj. Adriene Hartgerink, Maj. Brad Hsu and Capt. Brent Mumpower attended to the wounded soldiers.

Hartgerink said Picpic should undergo another surgery to remove a bullet in "his mandible because it might cause serious infection in the future."

The clash cost the lives of two aides of Sulu Gov. Yusup Jikiri, identified as Pfc. Najib Kuhutan and Pfc. Said Jakaria.

The bandits beheaded Kuhutan, while Jakaria lost a hand in the encounter. "What they did was unpardonable," Jikiri said.

He said he would give more support to the military and use his own influence on fighters of the Moro National Liberation Front in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf.

Jikiri said he would also tap the families of MNLF fighters just awaiting a signal from the MNLF hierarchy to go after the bandits.

Not confirmed

Carolina said the military had yet to confirm reports that Abdulmuin Sahiron, a nephew of Patikul-based Abu Sayyaf leader Radulan Sahiron, was dead.

Abdulmuin was behind the abduction of six Jehovah's Witnesses, two of whom were killed a day after they were seized on Aug. 21.

"We don't deny this report, but we cannot confirm his (Abdulmuin's) death. But we are sure that he is one of those wounded," Carolina said.

With considerable losses suffered by the military, Cimatu said Oplan Endgame was not an easy operation.

"Oplan Endgame will really be a very difficult military operation. It's not just a matter of military combat operation. It is meant to destroy the Abu Sayyaf, including the root causes in Sulu," he said.

Cimatu said the campaign would be long. "There will be ups and downs as what Churchill said, and more blood will flow, but we will never stop this operation," he told the wounded soldiers.

The slightly wounded soldiers received P20,000 in cash each, while those at the ICU were given P50,000 each.

Cimatu promised the wounded that they would be promoted.

Did the world . . .

From page A1

remember this for a long time," said Prof. Francis Fukuyama of Johns Hopkins University in the United States.

"I can't see how this fits into any historical context. It's an isolated act, perpetrated by what is in effect a secret society," said British historian Prof. Lord Robert Blake.

Certainly the public statements of the leading Sept. 11 protagonists have been charged with a sense of historic mission, with President George W. Bush casting America as the champion of the free world and defender of civilization.

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld recently compared Bush's pursuit of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, whom Washington accuses of developing weapons of mass destruction, with Winston Churchill's dogged stand against Hitler.

Historians typically are wary of such analogies, but some do see parallels between current events and past world crises.

British Prof. Eric Hobsbawm compared the catalyzing effect of the Sept. 11 attacks with that of the 1914 assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo, the spark that ignited World War I.

In the same way that the great powers chose Sarajevo as the occasion for a European war that had long been expected, Hobsbawm said, the United States made September 2001 the moment to assert itself as a military power capable of bringing massive force to bear anywhere in the world.

This was not a sudden impulse, he said, but the expression of a doctrine that began to take shape under the first Bush administration to combat insurgency, terrorism and drug trafficking.

"I think in this respect the 11th of September was the occasion for the Americans to say: Well, we've been preparing it, this proves that we need it: We're going ahead," Hobsbawm said.

"What made it a turning point was that the USA chose to make it one."

The other often drawn analogy has been with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor that prompted America to enter World War II. But here again, some historians see crucial differences as well as parallels.

"It's very different from Pearl Harbor. Pearl Harbor instilled an idea that the United States was caught up in a worldwide crisis . . . It declared war on Japan and Germany immediately as part of the same threat," said Prof. Lord Kenneth Morgan, a specialist in 19th and 20th century British and American history.

In contrast with the collaborative Allied effort against Hitler, the current crisis would promote a "Fortress America" mindset. Faced with "a more impenetrable and unknowable adversary who might crop up anywhere," the United States would look to its own resources and pursue a more self-sufficient and quasi-isolationist stance, he said. ***Reuters***

Pastor leads . . .

From page A1

stages of ailments like cancer required up to P4,000 a day in medication and other necessities, which the cash-strapped hospital could no longer provide.

He said that for the last 92 years, the PGH had relied on the help of "private donors" to save lives.

Last year, Cruz put up the "Give a Life" project to raise funds for the PGH children's wards.

The doctor said an anonymous donor recently financed the production of an infomercial relating the condition of the wards and their patients.

Acting fast

The 57-year-old Garcia, who had come here to marry a Filipino woman, saw the infomercial and immediately phoned the PGH to offer his help.

"I know I have to act fast because every minute, every hour, can make a difference to these children," he said.

The US Marine-turned-pastor has walked for causes all over the world.

He once walked from Jordan to the Palestinian territory and back amid violence to raise money for an Iraqi child's urgent heart surgery.

In the course of his walks, he has called on world leaders, including Pope John Paul II, the late King Hussein of Jordan, Prince Albert of Monaco, then US President Bill Clinton and Charles, the Prince of Wales.

"The time to help our dying children is now," he said. "We cannot tell dying children to wait. Tomorrow, they may no longer be around to appreciate our help."

"Walk 911" is also a walk for prayer and hope and is dedicated to all victims of violence, Garcia said.

Garcia will forego the Sept. 11 "Interfaith Service of Commitment to the Work of the United Nations—A Celebration of Hope and Remembrance Dedicated to Victims of Violence Everywhere," a memorial service to be attended by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and to which the pastor was invited by the Interfaith Center of New York.

In dire need

The PGH children's wards badly need, among other equipment, four ventilators, 10 incubators, two transport incubators, two portable EKG machines and 50 VP shunts, Cruz said.

"Each day, each week, each month, many children die in our wards," he said. This is not because our doctors are unskilled or incompetent. And most of the time, the children are not terribly sick. They are dying because they are poor." *(For inquiries, donors may call the "Give a Life" hotline at 899-1000. Or they may forward their donations to Banco de Oro account number 043-007-1418.-Ed.)*

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Gov't forms 2 fronts against NPA rebels

DAVAO CITY—Police and military authorities in Southern Mindanao are still awaiting orders from their superiors on the implementation of guidelines dividing Mindanao into two areas of operations as part of a renewed campaign against communist rebels.

The guidelines were signed during a meeting between President Macapagal-Arroyo and top police and military officials on Saturday.

The President tapped Interior Secretary Jose Lina to head Northeastern Mindanao and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes for Southwestern Mindanao.

Lina's areas of coverage will be Bukidnon, Camiguin, Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental, Compostela Valley, Davao del Norte, Davao City, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Sur, Surigao del Norte, and Surigao del Sur.

Reyes will oversee Lanao del Sur, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Maguindanao, Basilan, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay, Isabela City, Lanao del Norte, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani province, South Cotabato and General Santos City.

Chief Supt. Isidro Lapeña, police chief for Southern Mindanao, viewed the new government policy as highly commendable in confronting, once and for all, the government's No. 1 security threat, the New People's Army, military wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

He said the new guidelines were aimed at improving and polishing the preparedness and capability of the government forces to combat the rebels.

Col. Eduardo del Rosario, commander of the Army's 73rd Infantry Battalion, said the policy was an offshoot of efforts to combine and unite the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police in the fight against the communist insurgents. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

'JUSTICE, NOT WAR'

Their faces painted in protest, members of militant labor groups join the Justice, Not War Coalition and announce the launching of the International Day of Remembrance for Peace and Justice. The world marks the first anniversary of the terror attacks on the United States tomorrow.

VAL HANDUMON

Al-Qaida bomb plot in Manila exposed

From page A1

done that."

CNN said Philippine officials did not think that the supposed plot was necessarily linked to the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States last year.

Reuters quoted National Security Adviser Roilo Golez as saying that there were no threats against the US Embassy in connection with the anniversary.

But earlier yesterday, Agence France Presse reported that Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza had ordered heightened security in Philippine ports of entry as well as railway and telecommunications facilities to avert possible attacks on the Sept. 11 anniversary.

Mendoza, former chief of the Philippine National Police, also urged the public to immediately report any suspicious-looking people and packages.

"There might be some unscrupulous groups who may take advantage of the significance of that day," he said in a statement without elaborating.

Mendoza said strict security checks "to ensure the safety of everybody" would be implemented, but assured the public that all transport facilities in the country remained secured.

Additional uniformed policemen will also be deployed to guard Manila's overhead railway stations, he said.

In Sorsogon City, police were put on the equivalent of the military blue alert as early as 8 a.m. yesterday in connection with the Sept. 11 anniversary.

Supt. Arne de los Santos, provincial police chief, said units were on alert for possible terrorist activities in accordance with a Sept. 5 memo issued by Bicol police director Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr.

De los Santos said he had ordered police units in the province to heighten security in government buildings, vital installations such as power plants, sub-stations, commercial centers, churches and other possible targets.

A recent PNP communication directed police to take measures in close coordination with the military in intensifying intelligence gathering and counter-intelligence operations.

CNN's Maria Ressa cited the four tons of explosives earlier reported missing in the country.

In March, then Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva confirmed that the search for the explosives—twice the amount used in the bombing of a federal building in Oklahoma City in April 1995—was continuing.

Indonesian national Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, a confessed member of the Jemaah Islamiyah in Singapore, was arrested on Jan. 15 in Quiapo, Manila, for suspected terrorist activities.

After his arrest, Al-Ghozi, 31, led authorities to a ton of explosives, bomb materials and weapons buried behind a mosque in General Santos City.

Investigators aired suspicions that Al-Ghozi disclosed the location of the cache in General Santos as a diversionary tactic.

A commercial supplier with offices in Cebu City could not account for about four tons of explosives, which, authorities said, Al-Ghozi could have bought for use in attacks on US targets in Singapore and other places.

Jemaah Islamiyah, which has been linked to al-Qaida, had reportedly sent Al-Ghozi to the Philippines several times to procure explosives.

Al-Ghozi has been sentenced to 18 years in prison for possession of explosives.

A CBC News Online report dated July 30 said Jabarah, 20, grew up in St. Catharines, a quiet community in southwest Ontario and was being held somewhere in the northeastern United States.

Jabarah's family still lives in St. Catharines, according to the report. Word of his detention reportedly did not surface until late July.

He was reportedly giving US authorities tips on supposed al-Qaida plans since the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

CNN quoted intelligence sources as saying that Jabarah met with al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden two months before he was sent to Southeast Asia by Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, a Bin Laden lieutenant who, according to US authorities, was the key planner of the Sept. 11 attacks.

"Jabarah, a personal choice of Osama bin Laden because of his mastery with the English language, was dispatched on Sept. 10, 2001 by al-Qaida operation officer Khalid Shaikh Mohammed to assist in carrying out bombing activities in the Philippines and Singapore," an intelligence document said.

Authorities in Singapore were quoted as saying that Jabarah activated sleeper cells there but that the plot was foiled.

Thirteen suspected members of the Singapore cell were arrested last year.

Writing in the Los Angeles Times, Josh Meyer quoted US officials as saying that there had been an increase in intelligence "chatter" about al-Qaida cells supposedly regrouping and planning "large-scale actions" against US targets overseas.

"In an interview, a senior state department official who requested anonymity confirmed that US authorities are acutely concerned about the possibility of imminent attacks against embassies and other US facilities worldwide," Meyer wrote. ***With reports from Martin P. Marfil in Manila; Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; AFP; Reuters***

RP allows US use of air space in war on Iraq

From page A1

the United States and we have (a Mutual Defense Treaty) with them."

He said the United Nations resolution against global terrorism could likewise be invoked.

Ebdalin said any US request for the use of Philippine skies should be made in the context of the international war against terrorism.

"If the attack on Iraq is part of the anti-terrorism campaign of the United States, it can be done. We have to see the connection," he said.

Ebdalin noted President Macapagal-Arroyo's earlier announcement that "all our ports and facilities will be open, but we have to see the evidence that it is linked with counter-terrorism."

The country has been a regular refueling spot for US aircraft that participate in the campaign against terrorism. In the anti-Taliban drive in Afghanistan weeks after the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the United States, US military aircraft had used Philippine air space.

"The country could well provide US aircraft with logistics such as the use of our air space and our refueling facilities," Ebdalin said.

As US President George W. Bush and his key military advisers increased their war rhetoric, the DFA imposed Alert Level 1 in areas around Iraq, namely Jordan in the west, Iran in the east, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in the south, and Turkey and Syria in the north.

Level 1 means a notice for overseas Filipino workers in the areas to take caution in light of the impending conflict in Iraq.

"So far, we still have no instructions for the dependents of our staff in Iraq to move out or go home," Ebdalin said. The Philippine Embassy in Iraq has 10 staff members who have 13 dependents.

Twenty Filipinos serve as security personnel in several establishments in Baghdad and 40 others are working in the UN offices in Iraq.

A total of 1.4 million Filipinos are working in the Middle East.

UN assistance

In a statement, Ople said he would ask United Nations humanitarian organizations to help in the evacuation of hundreds of thousands of Filipino overseas workers in the Middle East in the event of a new and wider war between Iraq and the United States.

The secretary left last night for the United States to attend the UN General Assembly on Sept. 17.

In 1991, the UN's International Office of Migration chartered commercial flights and extended generous assistance to the Philippines when the government evacuated more than 27,000 Filipinos during the Gulf War, according to Ople.

In the Senate, opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara asked Congress to approve a supplemental budget to raise the billions of pesos needed to repatriate Filipino workers in strife-torn countries and assist undocumented workers being deported from their work sites.

Angara said that money for this purpose could not be sourced from the cash-strapped Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa).

He said Filipino workers around the world, even the undocumented, deserved full support from the government.

"We all like to say they are our modern-day heroes. We should translate such words into real assistance," Angara said.

He urged the government to adopt a three-step action plan in assisting undocumented workers being deported from Malaysia.

The plan included bilateral negotiations with Malaysia to save as many jobs as possible for the undocumented workers, full assistance to ensure the smooth and safe return of the workers, and helping find domestic and foreign-based jobs for the returning workers.

PNP goes after kidnappers in uniform

From page A1

Alleged leader Rosendo Veloso and Aurelio Pacitas Jr., both dismissed members of the Philippine Army; Pablito Salubod, a certain Pabling and a certain ex-Sgt. Junior Doctor were killed in a shootout with agents of the Traffic Management Group and the police in Hagonoy, Bulacan.

Another suspect, Roger Avalle, was wounded and arrested.

Ebdane told the President that the Veloso gang was the fifth kidnap-for-ransom (KFR) group to be "neutralized"—after the Solido, Villaver, Durano and the Lucido-Estillore gangs.

The Villaver group is a sub-group operating under the Fajardo gang, one of the top two kidnapping syndicates. The other is the Bucala group.

"We have already busted a lot of KFR groups; this is what the business community has been asking for," the President said.

During the anti-kidnapping summit on July 9, Ms Macapagal directed the PNP to identify the active kidnapping groups and focus its efforts in busting them. Shortly after, the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (Pacer) was formed.

Malacañang clears Mike in Naia 3 controversy

From page A1

In the Senate, opposition Sen. Sergio Osmeña III said Liongson might have been "persuaded to disappear" by those who did not want him to explain his multimillion-dollar duties.

Osmeña said the Senate blue ribbon committee probing the Piatco contract should invite Enrile if he indeed had evidence linking Liongson to Arroyo and the President's personal publicist and newspaper publisher Dante Ang.

Missing consultant

Liongson was hired as consultant in June last year on the recommendation of Piatco president Cheng Yong. During the Senate hearing, Cheng said the contract was for Liongson to render "public relations services" to Piatco.

The consultancy included the payment of $200,000 in monthly fees and $600,000 as bonus. In all, Liongson was paid $2.1 million and would have been paid a total of $4.4 million upon completion of his contract in November.

According to Cheng, Liongson stopped reporting for work as early as January.

"It looks like it was an influence-peddling contract rather than a work for PR services," Osmeña said.

Noting that "with a P10-million monthly pay, one can't just say goodbye to your job," the senator said other reasons might have caused Liongson to go into hiding.

"Liongson just gave up his post (despite the high pay), so I think he may have been persuaded to disappear," Osmeña said.

In a radio interview last Saturday, Enrile said Liongson's disappearance might have been on the prodding of Malacañang, purportedly to erase any traces of the possible connection to Arroyo and Ang.

"Who is the person behind Liongson if not (Arroyo) or Ang? Who? This (operator) should be investigated," Enrile said.

Bunye said the First Gentleman did not even know Liongson and "certainly, the President will not allow or tolerate any such arrangement."

"The President wants everything to be aboveboard," Bunye said. "If you recall, it was the President who initiated the review of the alleged onerous provisions in the contract."

"The First Gentleman doesn't even know Liongson," Bunye said.

Climaco's role

At the Department of Justice, Secretary Hernando Perez said presidential adviser Gloria Tan-Climaco could prove useful during the renegotiation of the Piatco contract despite her takeover proposal.

"She will come in handy," said Perez, chair of the seven-man Cabinet committee reviewing the contract.

Perez also disclosed that three other committee members—Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho and Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II—had already expressed support for the renegotiation.

Whether Climaco should inhibit herself from the panel "depends on the President," said Perez, and on "how Climaco will take it."

Shouldered expenses

Records of the government's transactions with Piatco show that the government has already been made to shoulder some P120.4 million on "subterranean" works for Naia 3, P186.1 million on a "quality assurance inspector," P50 million in partial payment to displaced concessionaires and employees of Nayong Pilipino, P344 million on a road upgrade program, and P197 million on the Edsa-Tramo overpass.

The documents also reveal that the government is already committed to spending another P450 million representing the balance of the total amount it owes Nayong Pilipino's concessionaires and employees, P100 million to clear the Nayong Pilipino site for the access road linking Naia 3 with Naia 2, P1.8 billion on an elevated expressway, and P150 million on a storm drainage system.

Piatco deducted P120.4 million from the P300 million in "annual guaranteed payments" that the government was supposed to receive on June 15, 2001.

The deduction represented "subterranean" works undertaken by Wintrack, a company owned by the wife of former Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez.

Piatco deducted another P186 million from the annual guaranteed payments that the government was supposed to get in 2001 and 2002 to reimburse itself for the government's share in the fees paid to quality assurance inspector Japan Airports Consultants Inc.

The company claimed that the government's 50-percent share of the fees paid to the inspector amounted to $3.5 million, or about P177 million. This amount was deducted from the government's guaranteed take from the project in 2001.

More billings

This year, the government was again billed some P8.7 million to pay the quality assurance inspector.

Apart from these deductions, the government was made to shoulder the cost of shutting down Nayong Pilipino in order to accommodate the new access road. While the change saved Piatco some P700 million, it cost the government an additional P500 million.

But yesterday, Piatco said the government would not actually be spending a single centavo for anything built specifically for the new terminal.

Piatco spokesperson Moises Tolentino said it was the government's responsibility to make the airport accessible to commuters and air travelers, and to shoulder expenditure related to that.

"There's really no direct expenditure on the part of government (in relation to the terminal), except for the delivery of a clean site to us before actual construction can take place," Tolentino said.

"Around P120 million was deducted from our P300-million payment for 2001. We ended up remitting only P2.2 million that year because most of the remaining P180 million was spent to pay for a quality assurance inspector," Tolentino said.

A group of international airline operators has asked Piatco to defer the opening of the new terminal.

The Board of Airline Representatives said the transfer of international airline operations from Naia 1 to Naia 3 could cause confusion because of "concerns" that have yet to be addressed. ***With reports from Abigail Ho, Michael Lim Ubac and Norman Bordadora***

■ Sampras wins his 5th US Open A18
■ Bulauitan bags gold in Singapore A19

SPORTS
Editor Al S. Mendoza ◎ Associate Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

FOUR DIGIT
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(In exact order)

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CONVENOR GROUP

PBA high priests anoint Barrios

Contenders Yanga, Gamboa left out; sportscaster long shot

FROM the looks of it, Sonny Barrios could be it.

In a recent meeting designed to look for the "right person" to succeed Jun Bernardino as commissioner of the Philippine Basketball Association, Barrios' name stood out.

"Sonny should be it," said one of the convenors, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "There's no other guy more capable than Sonny."

Two of the league's highest priests and a PBA founding pillar, among others, attended the meeting in an undisclosed place. The fourth person is a vital cog to the league; he belongs to a block that can swing the winning vote for the new commissioner.

Of the four participants, everybody but one agreed Barrios should be Bernardino's successor.

The 55-year-old Bernardino has announced he would be retiring at the end of the league's 27th season. By December, he shall have completed 20 years of service, the last eight as commissioner.

"I feel I have done my share," Bernardino had said when he announced he was retiring. "It's been a most fruitful 20 years of my life working in the PBA. It is now time to devote more time to my family–and my health."

Bernardino, under whose watch the league recorded several records in gates earnings, suffered a mild stroke last year. While recuperating, he was told–and he heeded it–by his doctor to "slow down a little."

Six-month absence

During Bernardino's six-month absence, Barrios became commissioner in an acting capacity. At the end of his reign, Barrios earned plaudits from both his peers and no less than Bernardino.

Bernardino has even endorsed Barrios, 54, to the PBA Board to be his successor.

Under the league's by-laws, only the PBA Board has the sole power to appoint the league commissioner. The current commissioner can only recommend his successor.

The convenor group was gathered precisely to "do an elimination process" among the candidates.

In that meeting, Elmer Yanga and Rey Gamboa emerged as Barrios' chief contenders.

Yanga is RFM's durable and amiable executive while Gamboa was Shell's long-time communications man and financial whiz kid.

BARRIOS

SALUD

Both Yanga and Gamboa had represented their companies to the PBA Board of Governors, with Gamboa becoming the PBA chair only a while back.

Lurking as a long shot for the top PBA post is a sportscaster.

"I welcome his entry (sportscaster), but he is really that–a long shot," a convenor told this writer. He expressed disgust over a report a former commissioner had allegedly endorsed the sportscaster as the next PBA commissioner.

The meeting also discussed the idea of "a comeback" for Rudy Salud, the PBA commissioner who wrote the league's constitution and by-laws.

Game fixing

As commissioner from the late Eighties up to the early Nineties, Salud sparked the PBA to score tremendous strides, including neutralizing the nefarious activities of syndicates involved in game fixing.

When reached by the INQUIRER, Salud, now the manager of former flyweight world champion Gerry Peñalosa, said, "Thanks, but no way."

The highest PBA official in that convenor said he asked Salud to come back–"even for only two years."

Reacting to that, Salud, a lawyer, said: "That was very flattering. But that will not be good for the league. That is moving backward, not forward. I'm not saying I'm old for the job but they must look for people who are young and brimming with new ideas. I think the shoe fits Mr. Barrios to a T. He is an original PBA man. He knows the league like the palm of his hand, so to speak. I'll do anything just for him."

As proof, Salud said he offered "to go to the PBA offices once a week for one year just to help guide Sonny in his new job."

Al S. Mendoza

Miller Time keys Thunder comeback

By June Navarro

WHEN Talk N Text needed an extra hand aside from its offense-oriented imports, Kenny Evans was always there to respond to the call.

On the other side of the court, Red Bull's Willie Miller has found the ongoing PBA Commissioner's Cup Finals between the Thunder and the Talk N Text Phone Pals a perfect time to shine.

Making a living under the shadows of Tony Lang, Julius Nwosu and Davonn Harp prior to the Finals, Miller has jacked up his numbers and provided the Thunder another take-charge guy to rely on.

WHO'S HOT? WHO'S NOT?

So far, the 5-foot-10 Miller has been the only consistent performer for coach Yeng Guiao, churning in a pair of 14-point outputs in Games 1 and 2 while making decisive things happen for the Thunder on the floor.

"Maybe it's the feeling that we're in the Finals that made me work harder. Although the pressure and the atmosphere are more intense, it stimulates us to double our efforts," said Miller in Filipino after Red Bull beat Talk N Text, 96-86, to level their best-of-seven championship series at 1-1.

Aside from averaging 14 point per game, the wily playmaker from Olongapo City was also agressive in grabbing those rebounds, collaring six offensive rebounds and four defensive caroms in the entire series.

These figures alone obviously reflect Miller's improvement in the Finals, a far cry from his 8.6 points per game, 2.6 rpg and 3.5 apg average in the whole conference.

Miller also drilled in five of his eight triples in the series, including making all his four attempts during the Thunder's Game 2 victory that reduced the fight to a best-of-five showdown.

MILLER

"Credit also goes to my teammates. We motivate each other to play hard and exceed our limitations," said Miller while cradling his one-year-old son, Alex.

But back to Evans.

In Game 2 last Sunday, Evans was but a shadow of his old self.

The 5-foot-11 Evans, who turned in his first career double-double performance during the Phone Pals' 102-100 Game 1 victory Friday night, would have been scoreless had Miller decided not to foul, thereby sending Evans to the stripe under three minutes to go.

After the statistics were released, these were Evans' figures: 1 point, a rebound, no assist and 0 out of 4 from the field.

Sorry figures compared to Game 1 where the crafty playmaker logged in 13 points, three rebounds and 11 assists and converted five of his eight attempts from the field.

Prior to the Finals, Evans averaged 5.9 points in 17 games and had at least five assists each game.

"There are nights that you're on and there are nights that you're off," said Evans. "Sunday night was an off-night."

On his rookie year last season, Evans saw limited action for Alaska before finding a comfortable home at Talk N Text, a team that has tapped his potentials and elevated his skills to another level of competition.

Fiba wants world cast to 24 teams

INDIANAPOLIS—There has been a world of change in international basketball.

In one week, he witnessed a US team full of NBA players lose not once but three times in the World Championships, while New Zealand, a relative newcomer, played for a medal.

Borislav Stankovic, Fiba's secretary general, never thought it was possible.

But if this year's 11-day tournament proved one thing, it was this: The American domination is over.

At the next World Championships, in 2006, Fiba would like to expand the tournament from 16 teams to 24 teams. That would require approval from the Japanese organizers."They went to NBA players and they've owned everything until now," Stankovic said of the Americans surprising collapse in Indianapolis. "World basketball is enormous and the gap between the US and the world is getting closer and closer. That's the most positive thing you can conclude from these championships."

The tournament had its share of successes. *AP*

Ucap derby begins today

THE EXCITING race for Ucap's Stagfighter of the Year 2002 award starts today as the "1st Ucap Firebird MB 7-Stag Derby" sizzles at the Mandaluyong Coliseum with Sagupaan Complexor 3000, Sagupaan Free Mite, Pagcor and Lakpue Drug Inc. as sponsors.

Engineer Sonny Lagon and Mayor Joel Brillantes (Blue Blade JBB) were back-to-back winners of the Ucap Stagfighter of the Year in 2000 and 2001, making them early favorites in this year's short but fiery series.

Hotelier-sportsman Biboy Enriquez, derby host, said that stags to be accepted are those banded from March 1 to 30 this year. Eligible are stags from Ucap, Balbina, Migba, LGBA, NCA, GF-Ban and NGBA.

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ARGENTINA'S Luis Scola (right) tries to deflect a pass by Peja Stojakovic of Yugoslavia in this bit of action yesterday during the Finals of the 2002 Men's Fiba World Basketball Championships in Indianapolis. Yugoslavia won, 84-77. Vlade Divac (inset) hoists the championship trophy. AFP

Injuries, A. Seigle's case bug RP quintet

By June Navarro

WHAT bugs coach Jong Uichico are not his boys' playing patterns, nor their defensive skills.

It's injuries to some of his key players that's giving Uichico some sleepless nights. Include Andy Seigle's alleged involvement in a fistfight with civilians the other night inside a disco joint.

Uichico said yesterday Dennis Espino, Noy Castillo, Danny Seigle and Mick Pennisi are still recovering from various ailments in the runup to the Asian Games basketball competition.

The 6-foot-6 Espino is still recuperating from back spasms while the sweet-shooting Castillo is recovering from an injured toe.

Seigle, who shone during the Nationals' tuneup game against the Melbourne Tigers two weeks ago, has an achilles tendon. Pennisi feels pain in his right knee, an injury, Uichico believes, he got in practice.

"These are minor injuries but they keep coming back. I just hope they would go away once we start playing in the Asian Games," said Uichico.

The PBA-powered national team is in the final phase of preparations before embarking on a gold-medal hunt in the Asiad on Sept. 28-Oct. 14 in Busan, South Korea.

As to Andy Seigle's alleged involvement in a fistfight, Uichico said, "He (Seigle) told me he was not involved in the fight contrary to what the newspapers said." said Uichico.

The RP Team coach said he would not take Seigle's version "at face value."

"We have to find out what really happened. We cannot just decide on what penalty to impose on Seigle based on newspaper reports," said Uichico.

Reports have it that Seigle and his companions ganged up on Benilito Benitez, 26, and Miguel Honor, 37, after another bouncer had told the group to stop annoying the female customers at Club V bar and disco in San Lorenzo Village.

"If Andy (Seigle) will be found guilty, it will definitely affect the preparation of the team. We cannot afford distractions at this time," said Uichico.

Yugoslavia beats Argentina in OT, keeps crown

Divac nearly turns goat after missing 2 free throws

By Chris Sheridan

INDIANAPOLIS—Yugoslavia came back from an eight-point deficit in the final 2 1/2 minutes and survived a crucial pair of missed free throws by Vlade Divac to beat Argentina 84-77 Sunday for the gold medal in the World Championships.

The game ended with Argentina's players angrily pointing their fingers and yelling at a Greek referee who failed to call a foul on the final play of regulation.

Dejan Bodiroga scored 27 points, including nine straight points late in the fourth quarter when Yugoslavia rallied to tie it, and Peja Stojakovic had 26.

Divac missed two free throws with 5.9 seconds left, leaving the score tied 75-75. Argentina rebounded and got the ball to Hugo Sconochini, who drove to the basket and went down hard as he missed the shot just before the buzzer.

The entire Argentina team—coaches, players and trainers—ran onto the court to complain that a foul should have been called. Replays showed Marko Jaric of Yugoslavia making contact with Sconochini.

The referee, Nikos Pitsilkas, ejected a member of the Argentina delegation just a few seconds into overtime. Several players screamed and gestured at the referee during the final few seconds of overtime, then clapped their hands in mock applause as he left the court. *AP*

Germany cops third

INDIANAPOLIS—Dirk Nowitzki's impressive young career has helped put Germany on the international basketball map. With the Dallas Mavericks all-star leading the way, Germany now has a medal to prove it. The 24-year-old forward scored 25 of his 29 points in the first half and Germany won its first World Championships medal with a 117-94 victory over New Zealand on Sunday in the third-place game. *AP*

For Pete's sake, believe in Pete

Vintage Sampras beats Agassi

By Steve Wilstein
AP Sports Writer

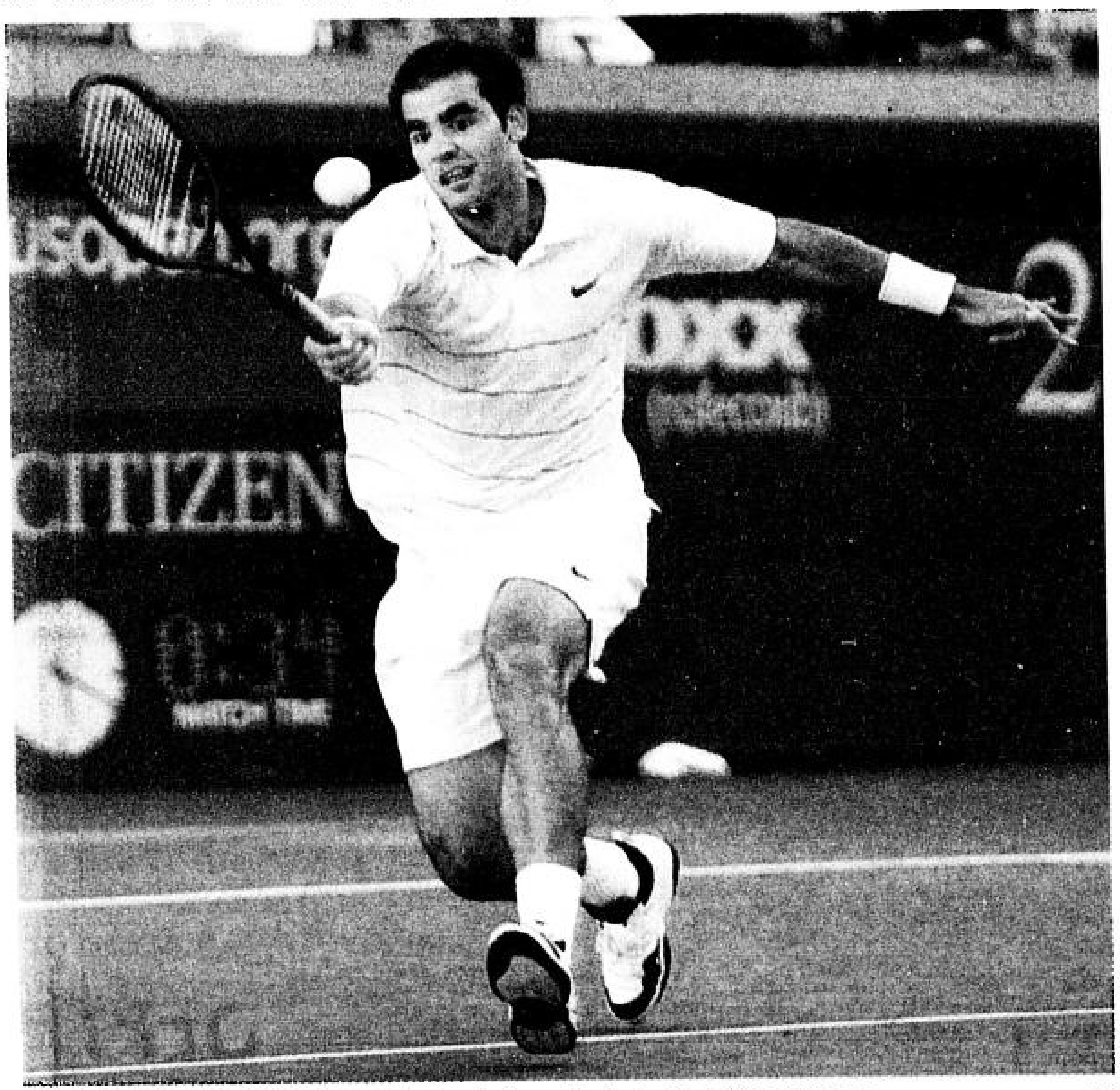
NEW YORK—Rivals chided him, friends gave him advice, and his family tried to console him. Hardly anyone believed Pete Sampras really could win again.

They thought his legs were gone, his serve had lost its sting, his forehand was shot. They thought that at 31 the game had passed him by, that he was chasing rainbows, deluding himself.

Every time some no-name player beat him in this year of misery on the court, Sampras seemed more and more pathetic. He looked bewildered, admitted he had lost his confidence, yet kept insisting that somehow he would win one more.

Sampras, as it turned out, knew himself better than anyone else.

His 6-3, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4 triumph over fellow American Andre Agassi on Sunday to win a fifth US Open and capture a 14th Grand Slam title was a tribute to perseverance and resilience in the face of a world of doubt.



SAMPRAS hits a forehand to Agassi during their men's singles final at the US Open. AFP

Fitting symmetry

Sampras said he wants to play at least one more year. But if he never wins another major, he can walk away satisfied that he defied his critics with the perfect bookend to his career. A dozen years ago at the US Open, he won his first major title by beating Agassi in the final. To close it out with a similar victory would be a fitting symmetry.

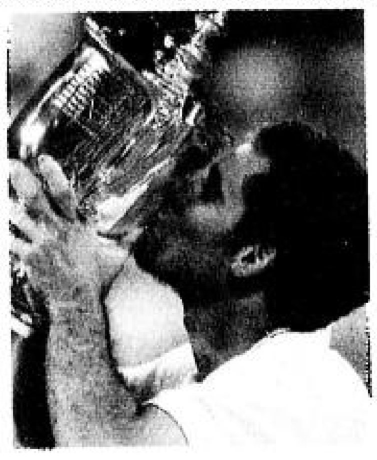
Sampras and Agassi have been going at each other for two decades, since they were teenagers with championship dreams. They met this time as the oldest pairing in a US Open final, Agassi at 32 and looking for his eighth Grand Slam title.

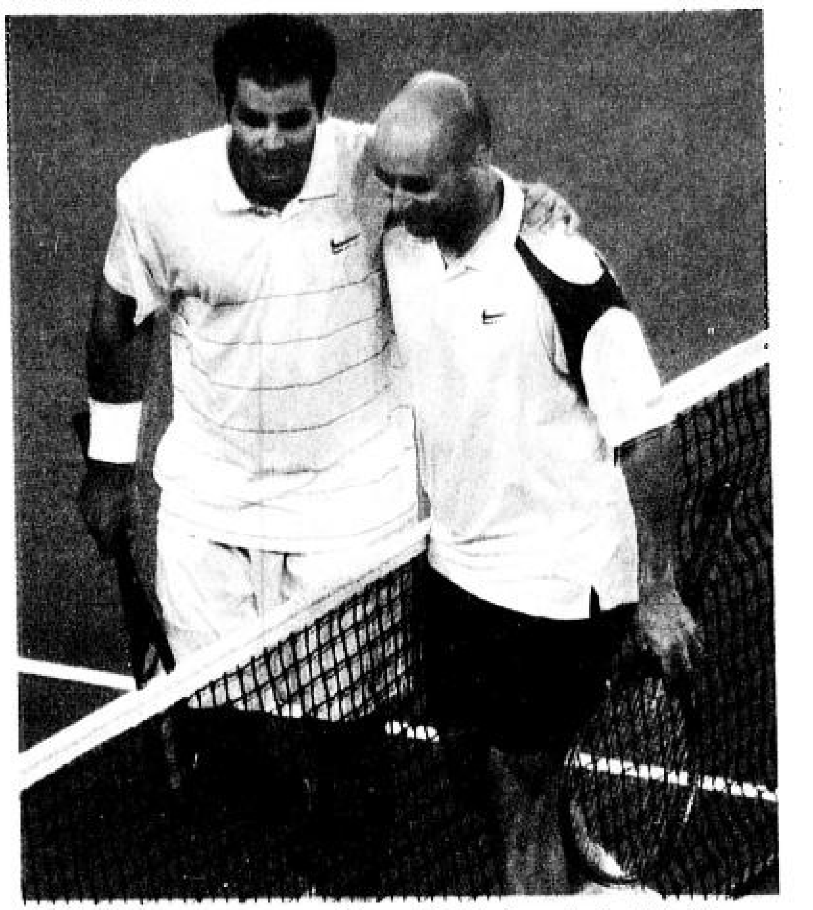
Yet the message about age in this match is that it didn't matter. Sampras cracked 33 aces, crushed volleys and ran as hard as he always did. Agassi pummeled groundstrokes with all the force of his best years and lost only because Sampras was too good. On this day, with his serve clipping the lines at 209 kph (130 mph), no one of any age would have beaten Sampras.

"I was having a hard time getting on it and getting off the mark and making any sort of impact at all," Agassi said. "I think he sensed that."

It took Agassi nearly two hours to find even a crack in Sampras' game, to break him with lunging returns and extend the match to a fourth set. But Sampras kept tattooing the lines, pressuring Agassi, and beat him for the 20th time in their 34 career meetings by coming up, once more, with bigger shots on the big points.

"This one might take the cake," Sampras said. "I never thought anything would surpass what happened at Wimbledon a couple of years ago. But the way I've been going this year, to come through this and play the way I did today was, it was awesome."





SAMPRAS puts his arm around Agassi (right) after winning their US Open men's final, 6-3, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4. At left, Sampras kisses his trophy. AP

That 2000 Wimbledon victory, his seventh on Centre Court, was one of the most emotional of his life. He set the men's record for Grand Slam titles and, for the first time, his parents were there to watch. They all shed tears when they hugged at the end.

Pregnant wife

This time, his pregnant wife—actress Bridgette Wilson—was courtside, and he walked into the stands at the end to hug her. Instead of tears, they shared smiles and a long, meaningful look of love and relief after all they had been through. He had hugs, too, for his sister and his coach, Paul Annacone, who came back to prepare him for this tournament after they broke up last year.

"Those people really are the reason I'm here," Sampras said. "I had that support. There were moments where I was struggling to continue to play. My wife really supported me and kept me positive, kept me upbeat. That support was huge for me at this stage of my career.

"So much of what I was going through this year was mental. It wasn't forehands and backhands and serves. It was kind of my head space. I wasn't real positive, kind of got down on myself extremely quick out there."

The route to the championship couldn't have been much harder for Sampras. Aside from all the problems he had coming in, all the early losses in tournaments this summer, the rain had wrecked the first week of the Open. Sampras had to win five matches in seven days and go through some tough players: Greg Rusedski of Britain, Tommy Haas of Germany, and the new American hopeful, Andy Roddick.

Sampras beat Rusedski in five sets, only to hear the Brit claim that he wasn't impressed. Sampras was "a step-and-a-half" slower than he used to be, Rusedski said, and wouldn't get past anyone else. Sampras shot back that he didn't have to be faster to beat Rusedski, then he went on to take out Haas in four sets and Roddick in three.

"His game is able to raise itself at the right time," Agassi said. "There's still a danger in the way he plays and how good he is. Anybody that says something different is really ignorant. They don't understand the game of tennis. Pete has a lot of weapons out there."

Sampras knew it all along. He believed in himself and just had to convince everyone else.

They took a special pride

By Jim Slater
AFP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK—Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi took a special pride in playing their US Open showdown in a city whose recovery from terrorist attacks a year ago has provided them with inspiration.

They played an all-American final before a cheering crowd of 25,210 at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"It's always important here but I think this year was extra special," Agassi said. "It means a lot more to me this year after what took place a year ago.

"I think the world has seen what a great city this place is and the heart and spirit of New Yorkers is something that gives you a lot of hope." Terrorists flew hijacked airplanes into the World Trade Center's Twin Towers last September 11, collapsing both buildings and contributing to the deaths of more than 3,000 people.

"There's a lot of inspiration in the hearts and minds of everybody in this city after seeing what happned here a year ago," Agassi said. "It makes it quite easy to go out there and lay your heart on the line. It's added motivation."

Riviera gives RP golfers acid test

THE COUNTRY'S national players strut their wares in a pre-Asian Games warm up as Jerome Delariarte, Angelo Que, Juvic Pagunsan and Marlon Dizon lead the field in the Riviera Amateur Golf Championship starting today at the Club's Langer course in Silang, Cavite. Tee-off starts at 7 a.m.

The Nationals, who are set to shoot for the individual and team gold medals in Busan, Korea, will be put to a big test by a horde of veterans in a 72-hole duel that marks the addition of a Riviera leg into the growing number of big time amateur competitions.

Foremost among the challengers in the championship division for players with handicaps of 4.7 and below are Dave Hernandez, winner of the Mt. Malarayat Mid-Amateur last month; multi-titled Tommy Manotoc, JR Tanpinco and former national team mainstays Boyet Zaragoza and Iggy Clavecilla.

Also teeing off today are the participants in the Class B and Class C divisions. Those playing in Class A and seniors will be playing on Thursday and Friday.

Southwoods overwhelms Northwoods

Standings:
Group I: 8 Alabang, 7 Mimosa, 6 Sta. Elena, 4 Mt. Malarayat, 4 Orchard
Group II: 8 Southwoods, 7 Wack Wack, 5 Valley, 5 Northwoods, 5 Eastridge
Group III: 10 Forest Hills, 9 Manila Golf, 4 Riviera, 4 Canlubang, 3 Tagaytay Highlands

JEROME Delariarte holed a 20-foot putt for birdie on the last hole as the reigning national amateur titlist and partner Romy Vergara rallied to score a 1 up victory in best ball play and cap Manila Southwoods' demolition of Royal Northwoods over the weekend in the Federation Golf League matches.

It was a rousing victory that sent Southwoods from the bottom to the top of the standings with the pairings of Ben Borja-Butch Brodett (aggregate), Seve Liao-Marty Ilagan (high-low) and Joey Santos-Lito Abierra (scramble) completing the ghastly 4-0 rout.

Southwoods, which had lost their first round meeting with the Bulakenos, surged ahead in Group II with 8 points ahead of Wack Wack (7) which was drawn by a visiting Eastridge (5). *Jong Arcano*

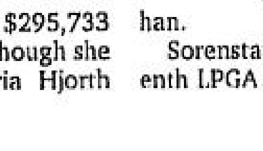
RICHER BY $13,483

Rosales co-7th, boosts bid for World golf

By Jong Arcano

JENNY Rosales pumped up her bid to join the exclusive field for next month's Samsung World Championship by tying for seventh in the Williams Championship won by Annika Sorenstam at the Tulsa Country Club course in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Rosales shot a final round two-under-par 68 to keep pace with the other contenders for the remaining Top 30 of the money list who will qualify for the Samsung event, one of the season-ending tilts won last year by Dorothy Delasin.



ROSALES

Counting her earlier rounds of 70-71, Rosales finished at 209 and won $13,483 (nearly P7 million). Her total earnings of $295,733 put her at 29th place, though she moved closer to Maria Hjorth ($308,699) and Laura Davies ($302,995), ranked 27th and 28th.

Delasin decided not to play in Tulsa a week after not being named to the United States team for the Solheim Cup captained by Patty Sheehan.

Sorenstam pocketed her seventh LPGA Tour title with a closing 65 and a 199 total, beating Lorie Kane, who shot a 68, by four shots.

US Solheim Cup player Cristie Kerr (69) and Australia's Joanne Mills (67) tied for third at 6-under 204.

Her $150,000 purse pushed Sorenstam's winnings to $2,061,991 in 16 events. She set the LPGA Tour record last year with $2,105,868, becoming the first LPGA player to top $2 million.

SPORTSTV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL Blast at 8:30 a.m. on ESPN
NFL - Pittsburgh Steelers vs New England Patriots at 9 a.m. (r - 10 p.m.) on ESPN
GOLF: LPGA Wendy's Championship at 9 a.m. on Star Sports
PGA Bell Canadian Open at 2 p.m. on Star Sports
Tiger's Bridge to the Future at 5:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN
This is the PGA Tour at 9 p.m. on Star Sports
SOCCER: English Premier Football League Classic at 7 a.m. on Star Sports
TRIATHLON: ITU World Cup 2002 Highlights at 11 a.m. on Star Sports
MOTOR SPORTS: 2002 F1 Highlights - Belgian Grand Prix at 8 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

FEU, Army pace Utilco football tilt

FAR Eastern University and Army B triumphed last weekend to pace their respective Second Division groups in the 2nd Army-Utilco International Invitational football tournament at the Ascom field in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

The FEU booters nipped highly rated Sunday Football Club, 1-0, on Kristin Kirk Magbalon's goal in the 22nd minute to improve their record to two wins and one tie for a frontrunning seven-point output in Group A.

The Armymen also eked out a 1-0 victory over University of the East for their third straight victory and a nine-point total in Group B.

Pete The Great

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE PAST became teacher first. Next, he came back like a blast. From the past.

That was Pete Sampras in the US Open Tennis Championship.

For 14 days or so, the Old Guard essayed two roles:

One, a man of wisdom; and,

Two, the best among equals. Or "primus inter pares" as lawyer Bert Bravo of Caffe Appassionato fame loves to say it in Latin.

The crowds at Flushing Meadows in New York enjoyed every minute of The Sampras Show. If this were a rock concert, the cheers for Pete would puncture, if not rupture, your eardrums.

The Young Turks, though Sampras vanquished them with impunity, went home brimming with experience–and a newfound respect for the elderly. Never again will they treat senior citizens with indifference, if not lightly.

Sampras' equal that was Andre Agassi, his victim yesterday, had only kind words for Pete The Great. Pete has been Andre's nemesis for nearly 15 years now.

Almost, they are inseparable. Since they burst into the scene as teenagers in 1988, the world did not have a tournament without them.

In 1990, Sampras, 18, beat Agassi, 19, for the US Open crown. It was Pete's first of five US Open titles. Two more times Sampras would beat Agassi for the US Open plum-the last time being yesterday.

Sampras is 31 now, pushed to a degrading 17th seed in his 15th US Open, winless in 33 tournaments the last two years. The way he beat the seventh-ranked Agassi yesterday, Sampras looked like an 18-year-old dismantling a brick wall with his bare knuckles.

Thirty-three aces to Agassi's seven.

Sixty winners to Agassi's 18 in three sets.

Eighteen unforced errors to Agassi's 33 going to the fourth set.

Sampras had 18 double faults to Agassi's four. But then, Agassi's fourth and last double fault came on the crucial ninth game of the fourth set, allowing Pete to surge to a 5-4 margin via a break. Serving for the match, Sampras stormed to three match points before securing victory with another of his crisp volleys all evening on his second match point.

The final score was 6-3, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4.

Even that third-set defeat didn't exactly appear like a defeat for Sampras, who lost in the US Open finals of 2000 (to Marat Safin) and 2001 (to Lleyton Hewitt). To win the third, Agassi toiled to the hilt like a beggar scavenging for crumbs on a molehill of rubbish.

The four-set victory gave Sampras another record: at 31 the oldest to win the US Open since Australian Ken Rosewall won it in 1970 at the age of 35.

Is Sampras, winning a record 14 Grand Slams yesterday, now ready to quit?

"N'yet," he said. "One more year, and that's it for me."

What Sampras had just done was already incredible. He can go fade into the sunset, sit in his rocking chair and watch his "chestnuts roasting on an open fire." But no, he wants one more year to try to transform from being incredible to improbable. Oh my, will Father Time take this sitting down?

Indeed in life as in sports, only grandmasters know when to resign.

SINGAPORE OPEN TRACKFEST

Bulauitan clinches long jump gold

BULAUITAN: Top long jump bet in Busan. FILEPHOTO

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LERMA Bulauitan sprang to the long jump gold medal to lead three other equally fired-up Filipino bets in the recent Singapore Open, their last tune-up event for the 14th Asian Games slated late this month.

Bulauitan's victory raised the morale of compatriots Marestella Torres, Ernie Candelario and Sean Guevarra as they also brought home medals from the event participated in by 12 countries including the United Kingdom, Australia and Asiad athletic powerhouse Japan and Sri Lanka.

Bulauitan, who is entered in the 100m dash and the long jump in Busan, posted a modest 6.28 meters to beat Torres and an Australian, who placed second and third, respectively. Her best feat this year of 6.41m earned her a silver in the Asian Championships last month, losing only to a Kazakh who zoomed to 6.60m.

Candelario, who is recovering from flu, narrowly missed the gold in the 400m, losing to his Sri Lankan opponent by a whisker. Candelario breasted the tape in 46.7 seconds, just 0.1 second behind the Sri Lankan, who also beat him for the gold in last month's Asian Championships.

Knee injury

Making his first stint after injuring his knee, Guevarra copped the bronze medal in high jump with a 2.07m performance, still way off his 2.13m norm but nevertheless put him back on track for the Asiad.

"Their performances are going to peak just in time for the Busan Asiad which is still 25 days to go," said athletics chief Go Teng Kok, who accompanied the four athletes in Singapore. "They didn't turn in record performances because of bad weather conditions, but the fact that they all won medals is good enough."

Go said their showing provided a glimpse of how the RP tracksters will perform in Busan, where they hope to improve on their one-bronze medal output in Bangkok four years ago.

Other strong contenders for the Philippines are long distance dynamo Eduardo Buenavista, middle distance ace John Lozada and marathoners Roy Vence, Allan Ballester and Christabel Martes.

"The athletes are ready to compete and we officials have done our part in giving them as much foreign exposure as our funds would allow," said Go, who has brought to the country the prestigious Asian Grand Prix in May to gauge the strength of other Asian tracksters.

Go said he hopes his wards would perform well in the Asiad so that Philippine track and field can again enjoy the lofty stature it had during the reign of legends Lydia de Vega and Elma Muros.

SPORTSWATCH

El Guerrouj wins, but fails to break mark

RIETI, Italy—Failing to fulfill his promise, Morocco's Hicham el Guerrouj just missed out on breaking his own world record in the 1,500 meters Sunday at the Rieti Grand Prix IAAF meeting. The world champion, who first promised to set a new world mark here immediately after missing out on it in last year's event, finished in 3:26.96 seconds. El Guerrouj set the world record of 3:26.00 in Rome in 1998. The 27-year-old runner had repeated his promise of setting a new record here on Friday, after becoming the first athlete to win a share of the golden jackpot four times when he captured the 1,500-meter race at the Istaf meet in Berlin. Sunday's victory continued his unbeaten streak in the event this season. Russia's Vyaceslav Shabunin just edged Kenyan Robert Rono for runner-up, more than seven seconds behind El Guerrouj. *AP*

Korea stuns China; US stays unbeaten

RIESA, Germany—South Korea secured its place in the quarterfinals of the women's Volleyball World Championship with an unexpected 3-0 victory Sunday over unmotivated tournament favorite China. The United States defeated host Germany in straight sets, confirming its status as favorite heading into the final eight as the only remaining undefeated team of the tournament. In a dramatic fight for first place in its group, Russia avenged its Olympic final loss to Cuba, defeating the Caribbean side 3-1. South Korea plays Italy and China faces Brazil in Stuttgart, while the United States meets Cuba and Russia takes on Bulgaria in Bremen in Wednesday's quarterfinals. *AP*

FEU volleybelles 3-game shy of sweep

FAR EASTERN University went 11-0 at the expense of University of the East Sunday and is now three games shy of a sweep for an outright retention of the women's volleyball crown of the 65th UAAP. The Lady Tamaraws came prepared despite the intermittent weekend downpour and disposed of the Redskirts in 48 minutes, 25-13, 25-19, 25-21, fanning a streak that underscores their top billing this season. In UAAP volleyball, a team that sweeps the two rounds of the eliminations will win the crown outright. A single loss would require a crossover semifinals and a best-of-three championship duel.

All Stars FC rules Girls Futbol Cup

THE THREE Andreas or 3As (Barandiaran, Sevilla and Yang) led "All Stars FC" to victory recently against a tough "Mixed Nuts" football team (3-1 & 1-0) to become the first team to lift the G-Cup (Girls Futbol Cup) over at Cuenca Park in Ayala Alabang. A 'gol' apiece by the 3As and another by Marielle Benitez set the victory tone for the tournament favorites. All Stars FC took control of the attack-oriented match from the opening whistle. Meanwhile, the Rayomar Management Group–the creative business folk behind Oriental Merchants, Swire Travel and SanMig Pubs–recently announced its backing of the Family Futbol League. The FFI kicks off at the end of the month featuring the original teams that started the whole family futbol scene.

Torch Run goes to Luzon today

THE TEAM Philippines Asian Games Torch Run continued to snake through the Visayas and Mindanao yesterday even as the Luzon leg officially kicks off today up north in Tuguegarao.

The next two days will mark the Mindanao leg windup as the torch, symbolic of the Filipinos' support to athletes competing in the 14th Asian Games in Busan, South Korea, traverses Gingoog City after a festive sojourn in the Caraga Region and over Butuan City and Surigao provinces.

Simultaneous with the Mindanao windup is the resumption of the Visayan leg of the torch relay that runs under the battle cry "The Nation Rallies Behind Team Philippines."

Chair Eric Buhain of the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), organizer of the event intended to drum up moral support for athletes doing battle in the Sept. 29 to Oct. 14 games, graced much of the Mindanao leg and was satisfied with the enthusiasm Filipinos down South have shown.

"We expect our countrymen elsewhere in the archipelago to do the same in this endeavor. In as much as not all of us would be in Busan to cheer our athletes, we would like this torch run to serve as a sendoff complete with the prayers and support for Team Philippines," said Buhain.

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

NY Yankees 6, Detroit 4; Tampa Bay 6, Texas 3; Anaheim 6, Baltimore 2; Chi White Sox 7, Cleveland 6; Toronto 9, Boston 4; Seattle 16, Kansas City 9 (11 innings); Oakland 6, Minnesota 0.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Montreal 7, Atlanta 0; Florida 11, Pittsburgh 1; St. Louis 3, Chicago Cubs 1; Cincinnati 5, Milwaukee 4; San Diego 9, Colorado 4; NY Mets 11, Philadelphia 3; San Francisco 3, Arizona 1; Houston 6, Los Angeles 2. *AFP*

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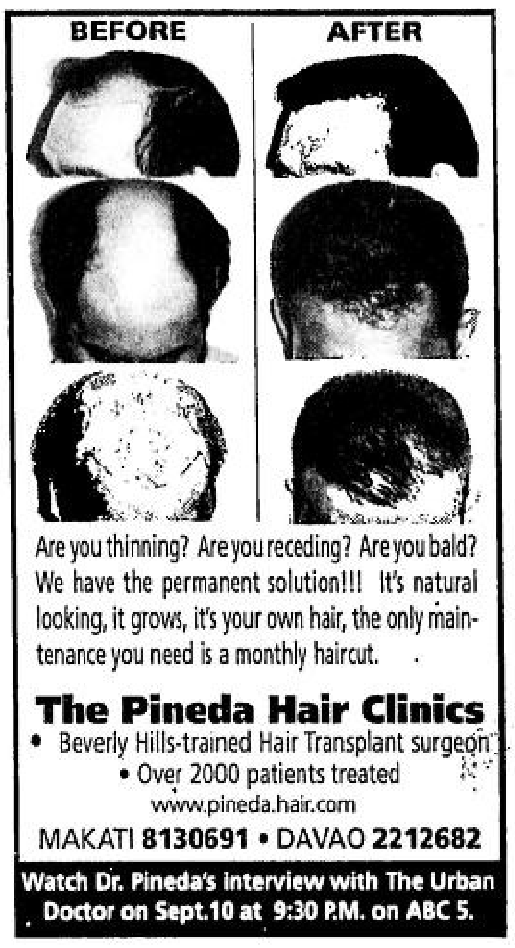

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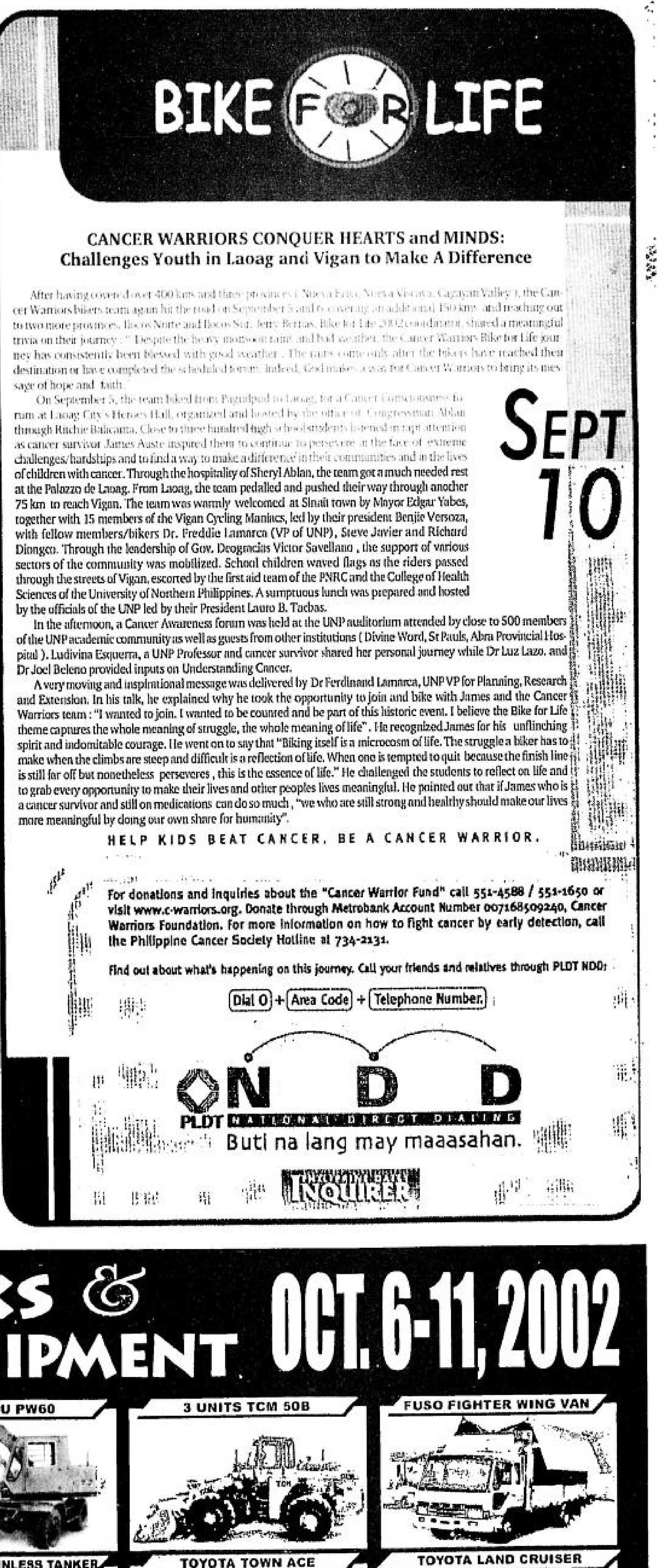

BIKE FOR LIFE

CANCER WARRIORS CONQUER HEARTS and MINDS:
Challenges Youth in Laoag and Vigan to Make A Difference

SEPT 10

After having covered over 400 kms and three provinces (Nueva Ecija, Nueva Viscaya, Cagayan Valley), the Cancer Warriors bikers team again hit the road on September 5 and 6 covering an additional 150 kms and reaching out to two more provinces, Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur. Jerry Bernas, Bike for Life 2002 coordinator, shared a meaningful trivia on their journey : " Despite the heavy monsoon rains and bad weather, the Cancer Warriors Bike for Life journey has consistently been blessed with good weather . The rains come only after the bikers have reached their destination or have completed the scheduled forum. Indeed, God makes a way for Cancer Warriors to bring its message of hope and faith."

On September 5, the team biked from Pagudpud to Laoag, for a Cancer Consciousness forum at Laoag City's Heroes Hall, organized and hosted by the office of Congressman Ablan through Richie Balicanta. Close to three hundred high school students listened in rapt attention as cancer survivor James Auste inspired them to continue to persevere in the face of extreme challenges/hardships and to find a way to make a difference' in their communities and in the lives of children with cancer. Through the hospitality of Sheryl Ablan, the team got a much needed rest at the Palazzo de Laoag. From Laoag, the team pedalled and pushed their way through another 75 km to reach Vigan. The team was warmly welcomed at Sinait town by Mayor Edgar Yabes, together with 15 members of the Vigan Cycling Maniacs, led by their president Benjie Versoza, with fellow members/bikers Dr. Freddie Lamarca (VP of UNP), Steve Javier and Richard Diongco. Through the leadership of Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano , the support of various sectors of the community was mobilized. School children waved flags as the riders passed through the streets of Vigan, escorted by the first aid team of the PNRC and the College of Health Sciences of the University of Northern Philippines. A sumptuous lunch was prepared and hosted by the officials of the UNP led by their President Lauro B. Tacbas.

In the afternoon, a Cancer Awareness forum was held at the UNP auditorium attended by close to 500 members of the UNP academic community as well as guests from other institutions (Divine Word, St Pauls, Abra Provincial Hospital). Ludivina Esquerra, a UNP Professor and cancer survivor shared her personal journey while Dr Luz Lazo. and Dr Joel Beleno provided inputs on Understanding Cancer.

A very moving and inspirational message was delivered by Dr Ferdinand Lamarca, UNP VP for Planning, Research and Extension. In his talk, he explained why he took the opportunity to join and bike with James and the Cancer Warriors team : "I wanted to join. I wanted to be counted and be part of this historic event. I believe the Bike for Life theme captures the whole meaning of struggle, the whole meaning of life" . He recognized James for his unflinching spirit and indomitable courage. He went on to say that "Biking itself is a microcosm of life. The struggle a biker has to make when the climbs are steep and difficult is a reflection of life. When one is tempted to quit because the finish line is still for off but nonetheless perseveres , this is the essence of life." He challenged the students to reflect on life and to grab every opportunity to make their lives and other peoples lives meaningful. He pointed out that if James who is a cancer survivor and still on medications can do so much , "we who are still strong and healthy should make our lives more meaningful by doing our own share for humanity".

HELP KIDS BEAT CANCER. BE A CANCER WARRIOR.

For donations and inquiries about the "Cancer Warrior Fund" call 551-4588 / 551-1650 or visit www.c-warriors.org. Donate through Metrobank Account Number 007168509240, Cancer Warriors Foundation. For more information on how to fight cancer by early detection, call the Philippine Cancer Society Hotline at 734-2131.

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METRO

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Fernando stops LRT construction

By Leila B. Salaverria

METRO Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando yesterday ordered a stop to the LRT 2 construction on C.M. Recto Avenue in Manila, saying the construction debris has been causing flooding and traffic congestion in the area.

An irate Fernando also told LRT 2 Project Manager Rico Garcia that the project's contractors, Korean firm Hanjin, would only be allowed to operate once the debris has been cleared from the road and the project area premises cleaned.

"I am asking the contractors to stop work," the MMDA chair said. "They should clean up the area first.

"If they want to continue their work, they must clean the area," he added.

Fernando, along with reporters, visited the construction site on C.M. Recto, where he expressed dismay over the mounds of sand, slabs of metal and wood piled on the sidewalks and the flooded streets near the site.

"Even if you have to pump the area 24 hours a day, do it," he told the engineers.

He pointed out to them that pedestrians could not pass through parts of the avenue because of the water that had collected.

He told Garcia and the project contractors to move the metal posts used as construction support which stood in the the middle of the road.

He said the posts were hampering the flow of traffic.

Garcia told reporters that although the workers clean up the area everyday, the debris continues to pile up.

The MMDA chair earlier also ordered a halt to the construction on the C-5-Boni Serrano-Katipunan Interchange because the debris was also taking up too much road space and was blocking traffic.

Vendors hold noise barrage, storm MMDA dump

By Agnes E. Donato and Philip C. Tubeza

METRO Manila vendors uprooted by the Metro Manila Development Authority's (MMDA) clearing operations on sidewalks and side streets yesterday said they would show "vendors power" in seeking the ouster of MMDA Chair Fernando Bayani.

The vendors claimed there are almost 9 million of them all over the country.

Metro Manila Vendors Association president Pedring Fadrigon said they would try for the last time today to ask Fernando for a dialogue.

"But if he continues to turn a deaf ear to our call, we will be forced to bring to Malacañang our petition, together with our demand for Fernando to be dismissed from his post," Fadrigo said.

The vendors yesterday trooped to a vacant lot in Manggahan in Pasig City, which the MMDA owns and where the agency dumps the goods it confiscates from the vendors.

Strewn on the lot were rotting vegetables, softdrink bottles, and bits and pieces of what used to be vendors' stalls.

Edwin Roche, a vendor from the Quezon City Hall, said he even found the stainless stall with burner which he had been using in selling fishball and *kikiam*.

Small trees uprooted from sidewalks were also found on the lot.

"The last few months had been a nightmare for small vendors like us, what with the burning of our ware and arrests among our ranks," Fadrigon said. "It seems that begging Fernando to negotiate with us just won't do anymore."

But he said the MMVA would stage another rally in front of MMDA office today to explain to Fernando that the vendors agree with his aim to clean up the metropolis.

Also yesterday, vendors held a synchronized noise barrage in three different places to protest the MMDA's clearing operations.

Activists joined the vendors in making noise at the corner of Recto Avenue and Morayta, the Trabajo market, and in Divisoria at about 4:30 p.m.

Members of the Alyansa ng mga Manininda para sa Pagtatanggol sa Kabuhayan at Karapatan sa Metro Manila (Almakka-MM) and the militant youth group Anakbayan participated in the mass action.

Pasay cops rescue child hostage without killing anyone

By Christian Esguerra

NERVOUS but ready, members of the ill-famed Pasay police force on Sunday night rescued an 8-month-old boy from the clutches of his drug-crazed cousin, passing their first test since they bungled a similar hostage incident last May.

At least 19 policemen, including some of the city's ranking officers, were on hand for the rescue of Joseph Eralino.

"We were very, very nervous, " said Insp. Jose Mansalungan, deputy chief of the Station Investigation Division. "Just imagine if we failed to save the boy. We would have been thrown in Basilan. Thank God we succeeded."

The incident brought back the tension of the failed rescue of 4-year-old Dexter Balala whose brutal death exposed the Pasay police department's inefficiency in handling hostage crises.

An incoherent Gerald Eralino, 26, snatched his cousin at knife point for no apparent reason inside the Eralino house on Vergel Street at about 7 p.m. Sunday, according to the victim's mother Cristina.

With residents trailing him, Gerald walked about 500 meters from the house and held the baby inside the apartment of Diosdado Gape Sr. on I. Reyes Street.

Anticipating another fiasco, the residents swarmed all over the area when the police arrived.

But to his credit, Pasay police chief Oscar Catalan, who acted as ground commander, immediately ordered his men to cordon off the area and keep the kibitzers at bay.

Snipers positioned themselves on the roofs of nearby houses, while a four-man strike force silently crept into the apartment from the back with instructions to neutralize Gerald if he attempted to stab the baby, Mansalungan said.

Beaten to death

DRUNKEN construction workers allegedly beat up to death handicraft supplier Noel Dapulang, 33, in Las Piñas on Sunday night.

Dapulang, of Talon II, Las Piñas, suffered severed injuries all over the body and died before he could reach a clinic.

Police arrested Avelino Gomez Jr., 27, Antonio Flores, 36, and Richard Malinas, 26, all staying at a construction site on Margie Moran Street in BF Resort Village.

Christian V. Esguerra

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Drilon had the right to be angry

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THOSE who say that Senate President Franklin Drilon "behaved like a spoiled child" at the San Francisco International Airport don't know anything about diplomatic protocol.

Drilon had every right to demand courtesy from the US government because he was holding a diplomatic passport.

The Senate president was made to remove his shoes at the airport's security checkpoint before he boarded a plane on his way back to Manila.

* * *

If our government accords courtesies to foreigners who hold diplomatic passports, it expects a reciprocal treatment from other countries toward our officials who hold diplomatic passports.

Drilon was not speaking for himself but for the Philippine government when he complained of the shabby treatment he got from the screeners at the San Francisco International Airport.

It's not the person, but the position, that's what Drilon was saying.

* * *

I remember the anecdote told to me by my father about the late Gen. Vicente Lim, a West Point graduate, during the Commonwealth days.

Lim, a colonel then, was in full uniform when a US Army sergeant passed him by without saluting. Apparently, the American didn't want to salute Lim because he was a Filipino.

Irked by the apparent show of discourtesy, Lim had the American sergeant report to his office.

* * *

Inside his office, Lim had a rack for caps and hats. One of his caps had the colonel rank insignia on it.

Lim ordered the sergeant to repeatedly salute the cap hanging on the rack.

The American enlisted man did as he was ordered. He kept saluting the cap until the Filipino colonel told him to stop.

Then Lim told the American: "If you don't respect me, you should respect my position."

* * *

The INQUIRER story last Wednesday said that First Gentleman Mike Arroyo supposedly underwent the same security check at the same airport on a different date but did not complain.

Arroyo didn't complain. So what? He just didn't want to because humility is in his nature.

But Drilon was just being assertive. It's in his nature to be assertive.

Let's not compare Drilon with Arroyo because although they are both Ilonggos, they are two different personalities.

* * *

Chief Justice Hilário G. Davide says that the country's judiciary is not a den of thieves.

Yes, it's not. Not all justices and judges are thieves.

But there are many thieves inside the den, Mr. Chief Justice.

* * *

I lost whatever little respect left I had for former Education Secretary Raul Roco when he criticized President Macapagal-Arroyo for the posters showing the President smiling and waving.

The posters, according to Roco, are illegal because they were donated by private individuals.

He said the posters he ordered printed at the Department of Education when he was still its chief were legal because government money was spent for their printing.

* * *

It's bad enough that Roco is indulging in sour grapes.

It's even worse when he pointed out that he had the government spend for his posters that were clearly made so he would have an edge over his rivals in the 2004 elections. The posters, showing him with his family, were distributed in public schools throughout the country.

If you don't call that electioneering, I don't know what is.

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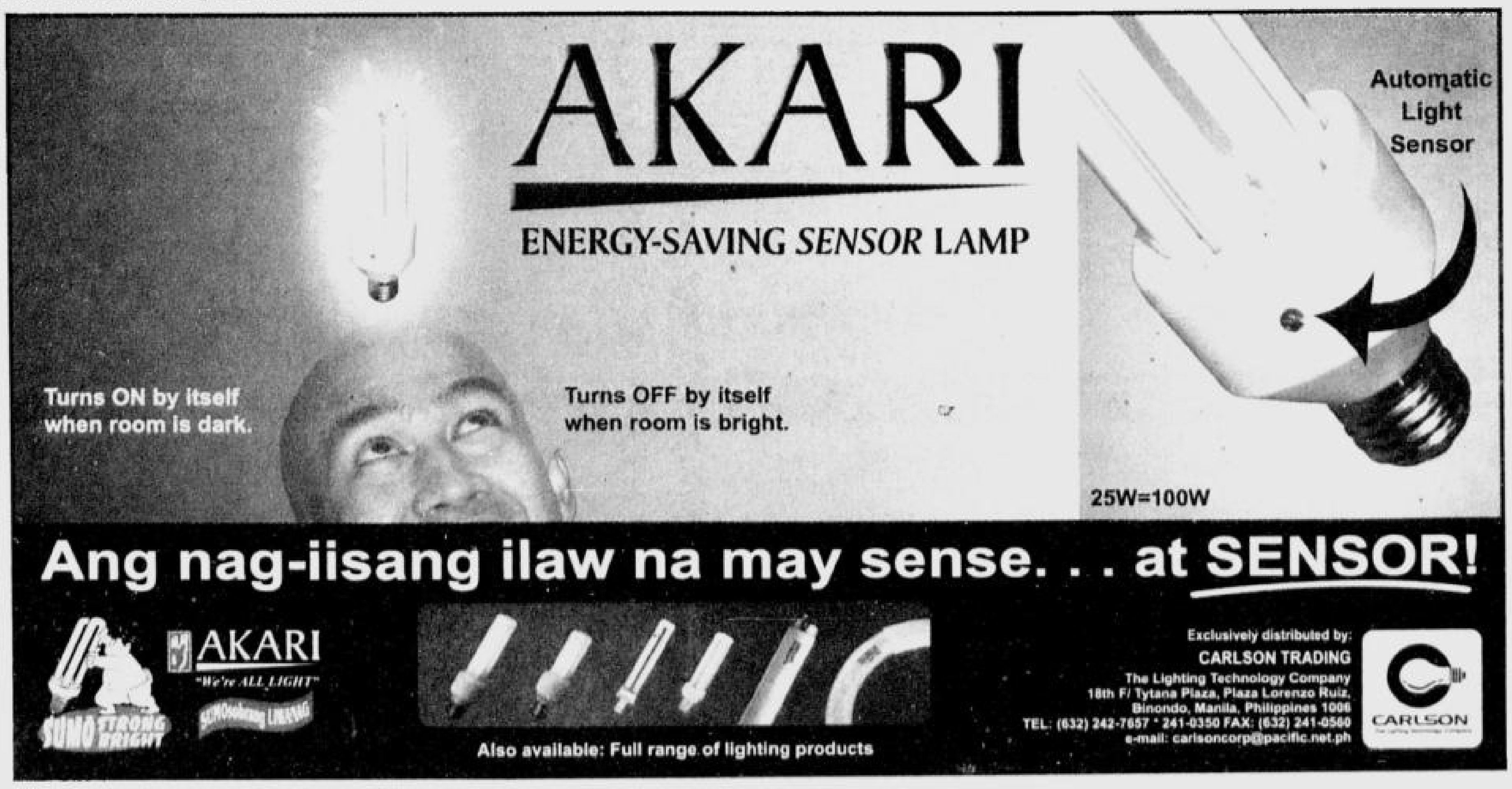
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G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 SIGNS	AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER	THE YIN-YANG MASTER (EXCLUSIVE)	SIGNS 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
THE BOURNE IDENTITY	UNFAITHFUL	HAPPY TIMES (Exclusive)	THE BOURNE IDENTITY 12:20, 3:05, 5:50, 8:35, 11:20	THE ROOKIE
LILO & STITCH	SIGNS 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30	Onstage	THE ROOKIE 12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30, 11:20	SIGNS
JOLOGS	4 DERAILED	GARY V: HITS @ ONSTAGE - SEP. 6,20, 26 & 27	AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20	AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER
	THE ROOKIE		THE BOURNE IDENTITY 11:40, 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 10:40	5 JOLOGS
	THE BOURNE IDENTITY			
	7 TRIPLE X			

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Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	HIGH RISK
2 (SDDS)	TRIPLE X
3 (DTS)	HIGH EXPLOSIVE
4 GOLD (DTS)	THE ROOKIE
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	BOURNE IDENTITY
6 GOLD (SDDS)	SIGNS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	AUSTIN POWER-3
8	GAMITAN
9	LILO & STITCH
10	JOLOGS

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1
2
3 (DTS)
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 & 3
(Pasay) tel 833.3300, 833.3374 TEL. 551 63 67

1	BAKAT
2	BOURNE IDENTITY
3	HIGH RISK

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	HIGH RISK
2	JOLOGS
3	GAMITAN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BOURNE IDENTITY
5	BAKAT

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1	DERAILED
2	GAMITAN
3	BAKAT
4	BOURNE IDENTITY
5	HIGH RISK
6	JOLOGS
7	
8	

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to13
BOURNE IDENTITY
SEPTEMBER 4, 5, 6, WED,THUR, FRI
TIME 5:30 PM, 8:30 PM, 10:30.
5:30 PM, 8.00 PM, 10:30 PM.

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	JOLOGS
2	LILO & STITCH

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	
2	AMBISYOSA
3	

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	GAMITAN
2	
3	
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8508

1 (SDDS)	JOLOGS
4	GAMITAN
5	HIGH RISK
6	BAKAT
7 (DTS)	AUSTIN POWER-3
8 (SDDS)	SIGNS
9 (DOLBY)	BOURNE IDENTITY

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	BAKAT
2	JOLOGS
3	GAMITAN
4 (SDDS)	BOURNE IDENTITY
5	JOLOGS
6 (DOLBY)	SIGNS
7 (DTS)	HIGH RISK
8	TRIPLE X
9	DERAILED

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

4	JOLOGS
5 (SDDS)	HIGH RISK
6 (DTS)	BAKAT
7 (DOLBY)	BOURNE IDENTITY
8	GAMITAN

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	HIGH RISK
2	BAKAT
3 (DTS)	JOLOGS
4	GAMITAN
5 (SDDS)	BOURNE IDENTITY

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	BAKAT

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	BAKAT

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	HIGH RISK
Lords	HIGH EXPLOSIVE
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	HIGH RISK
2	BOURNE IDENTITY
3	BAKAT

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	HIGH RISK
3	GAMITAN
4	JOLOGS
5	BAKAT

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030, 879.2029

1	BAKAT
2	BOURNE IDENTITY

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242 8400

1	JOLOGS
2	GAMITAN
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BOURNE IDENTITY
4 (SDDS)	SIGNS
5 (DTS)	TRIPLE X
6	AUSTIN POWER
7	HIGH RISK

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242 8400

1	BAKAT
2	BOURNE IDENTITY

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	BAKAT
2	JOLOGS
3 (DTS)	BOURNE IDENTITY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7983

1	JOLOGS
2 (DTS)	AUSTIN POWER
3 (DOLBY)	BOURNE IDENTITY
4	SIGNS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	JOLOGS
2 (DOLBY)	SIGNS
3 (DTS)	BOURNE IDENTITY
4	AUSTIN POWER

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	JOLOGS
2	GAMITAN
3	SIGNS
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	GAMITAN
2	JOLOGS
3 (DOLBY)	KILLING ME SOFTLY
4 (DTS)	DERAILED

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1	GAMITAN
2	DERAILED
3	JOLOGS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1	DERAILED
2	BAKAT
3	HIGH EXPLOSIVE
4	HIGH RISK

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	JOLOGS
3 (DTS)	AUSTIN POWER-3
4	GAMITAN
5	BAKAT

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	JOLOGS
2	BOURNE IDENTITY
3	BAKAT

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	BAKAT
2	JOLOGS
3	BOURNE IDENTITY

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3233

1	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
2	JOLOGS
3	TRIPLE X
4	GAMITAN

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	BAKAT
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	JOLOGS
2	TRIPLE X
3	BIGLANG LIKO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

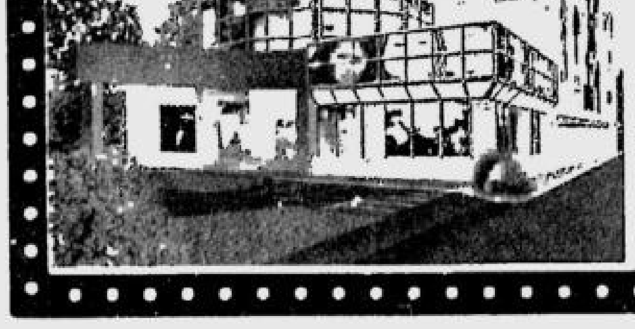
1	GAMITAN
2	DERAILED
3	TRIPLE X
4	JOLOGS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY)	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
3 (DTS)	SIGNS
4	AUSTIN POWER-3

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice.

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS



PREMIERE CINEMA OPENS TOMORROW
5:00 PM, 7:30PM, 9:45PM

REIGN OF FIRE

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173668

1	GAMITAN
2	DERAILED
3	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4	TRIPLE X
5	SIGNS
6	JOLOGS
7	BAKAT
8	HIGH RISK

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	JOLOGS
2	UNFAITHFUL
3	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4	BAKAT
5	HIGH RISK
6	GAMITAN
7	TRIPLE X
8	DERAILED
9	SIGNS
10	AUSTIN POWERS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
8350749

1	BAKAT
2	HIGH RISK
3	TRIPLE X
4	SIGNS
5	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
6	JOLOGS
7	AUSTIN POWERS
8	GAMITAN
9	DERAILED
10	HUMAN EATER
11	UNFAITHFUL
12	JOLOGS

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	AUSTIN POWERS
2	SIGNS
3	THE ROOKIE
4	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
5	TRIPLE X
6	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
7	HIGH RISK
8	DERAILED
9	JOLOGS
10	GAMITAN
11	JOLOGS
12	BAKAT

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 - 6329401

1	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2	SIGNS
3	UNFAITHFUL
4	DERAILED
5	HIGH RISK
6	THE ROOKIE
7	GAMITAN
8	AUSTIN POWERS
9	JOLOGS
10	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
11	BAKAT
12	TRIPLE X

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	HIGH RISK
2	TRIPLE X
3	BAKAT
4	JOLOGS
5	GAMITAN
6	SIGNS
7	AUSTIN POWERS
8	THE BOURNE IDENTITY

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	THE ROOKIE
2	AUSTIN POWERS
3	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4	SIGNS
5	DERAILED
6	GAMITAN
7	JOLOGS
8	TRIPLE X
9	HIGH RISK
10	BAKAT

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2	TRIPLE X
3	KILLING ME SOFTLY
4	SWEETEST THING
5	SEX & ZEN
6	GAMITAN
7	JOLOGS
8	THE BOURNE IDENTITY

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	TRIPLE X
2	CLOSED
3	SWEETEST THING
4	UNFAITHFUL
5	JOLOGS
6	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
7	CLOSED
8	ORANGE COUNTY

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2	TRIPLE X
3	BAKAT
4	GAMITAN
5	SIGNS
6	JOLOGS

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	AUSTIN POWERS
2	JOLOGS
3	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4	SIGNS

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2	BAKAT
3	JOLOGS
4	HIGH RISK

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2	JOLOGS
3	TRIPLE X
4	UNFAITHFUL
5	SWEETEST THING
6	INSOMNIA

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM CINEMA
[illegible]
633-8976

CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

THE BOURNE IDENTITY
11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/
10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:00 END

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Galleria 632-9115-16 633-7641 loc. 279

1 THX	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	HIGH RISK
3	THE ROOKIE
4	AUSTIN POWERS
5	BOURNE IDENTITY
6	SIGNS
7	BAKAT
8	JOLOGS
9	TRIPLE X
10	UNFAITHFUL

Ermita 536-7809-12

1	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	BAKAT
3	HIGH RISK
4	SIGNS
5	THE ROOKIE
6	JOLOGS
7	AUSTIN POWERS

Metro East - Marcos hway 682-8193 / 8280

1	GAMITAN
2	BOURNE IDENTITY
3	AUSTIN POWERS
4	TRIPLE X
5	HIGH RISK
6	JOLOGS
7	SIGNS
8	BAKAT

Novaliches 935-3229-30

1	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	TRIPLE X
3	JOLOGS
4	UNFAITHFUL
5	SIGNS
6	AUSTIN POWERS
7	BAKAT
8	HIGH RISK

Imus 471-8188 / 875-3838

1	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	JOLOGS
3	SPIRIT
4	TRIPLE X
5	INSOMNIA
6	GAMITAN

Bacolod 441-0453 / 0459

1	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	JOLOGS
3	SPIRIT
4	THE SWEETEST THING
5	INSOMNIA
6	GAMITAN

Iloilo 336-8077-78

1	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	UNFAITHFUL
3	THE SWEETEST THING
4	JOLOGS
5	ORANGE COUNTY
6	BIGLANG LIKO

Star Mills- San Fernando, Pamp. 875 1927 / 961 5318 / 5270

1	SORORITY BOYS
2	SIGNS
3	JOLOGS
4	BAKAT
5	BOURNE IDENTITY
6	BOURNE IDENTITY

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Establishing a script's rightful authorship

From page A26

Verni Vamps

The inimitable **Verni Varga Vamps** in special shows at the Hyatt's Calesa Music Bar and Lounge on Sept. 13 and 20

The shows are part of the ongoing celebration of the 35th anniversary at Hyatt of **Rudy Francisco**, discoverer of singing stars and Calesa's entertainment director and resident pianist. Verni is one of the promising talents he has helped come into their own.

Francisco recalls that Verni had a unique combination of looks, voice and charisma that enthralled music lovers at Calesa Bar even when she was just starting out.

Many years later, Verni is an even better performer, and her nostalgic team-up with her musical mentor should be a special treat.

'Maala-ala Mo Kaya' on VCD

"MAALA-ALA Mo Kaya" has come up with the good idea of putting its best episodes on VCD and selling them to OCWs in Hong Kong.

Volume 1 includes "Abo," about a group of Aetas who fled to the city to escape the devastation caused by the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo. "Aklat," on homelessness and prostitution. And "Karnabal," about a young woman (**Judy Ann Santos**) who learns that she comes from a family of circus "freaks."

Volume 2 has "Pier 39," in which Judy Ann and **Piolo Pascual** play two people who fall in love at the worst possible time in their lives. "Birth Certificate," about a gay man who finds himself in love with a girl. And "Scented Candles," on the tortured romance between a woman and the man responsible for the accident that claimed the life of the woman's lover.

Regine: Don't let concert . . .

From page A26

ESTRADA

remind himself that it's not really the length but the depth of your exposure that matters.

Will apprehensions about **Nora Aunor's** erratic work behavior disappear when taping for her new soap "Bituin" is in full swing? It's high time she lives up to her superstar status and not let an abusive paramour ruin things even before they get started.

What's in store for **Jericho Rosales** and **Kristine Hermosa** diehards now that their telenovela "Pangako Sa 'Yo" is coming to an end? And what's on the agenda for ace *kontrabidas* **Jean Garcia** and **Eula Valdez**? Both Jean and Eula are so devilishly good as villains.

John Pratts and **Heart Evangelista** are the hottest young faces in the biz these days. They are both oozing with talent. They are said to be in the getting-to-know-you stage. Hopefully they won't get in too deep with each other to the point that they neglect their promising careers. Why follow the example of other young stars who fell in love and then became fallen stars."

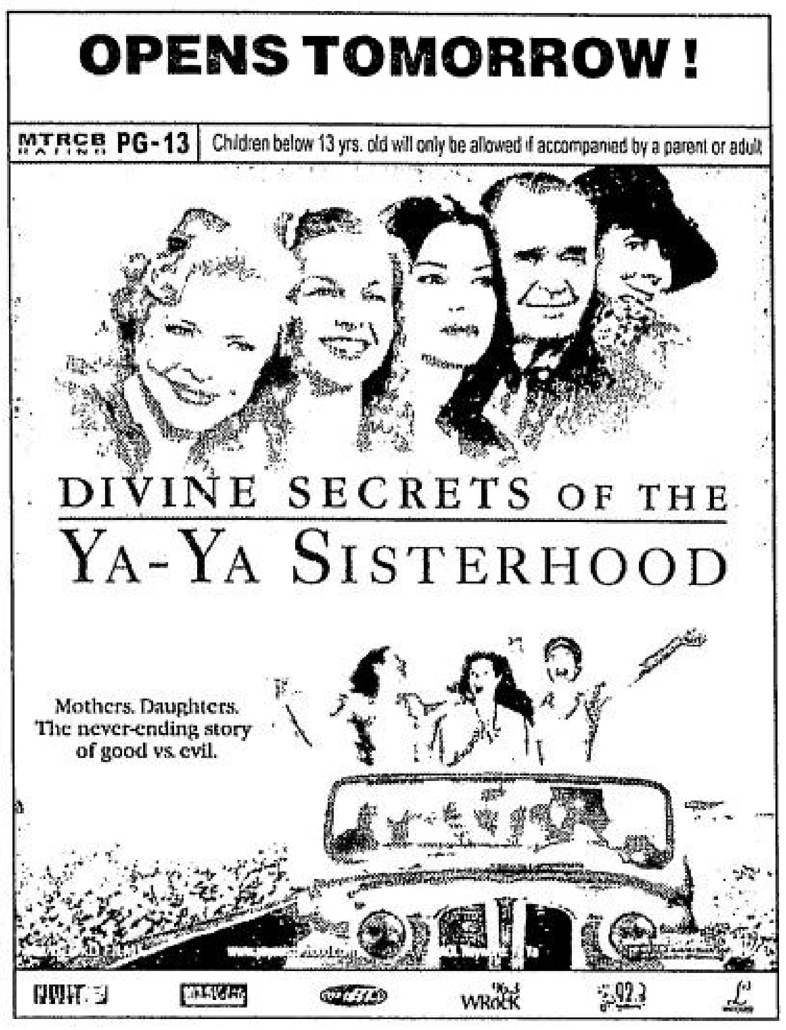
Now that **Jolina Magdangal** is with GMA-7, is there no more chance for her to team up again with erstwhile partner **Marvin Agustin** who's with ABS-CBN?

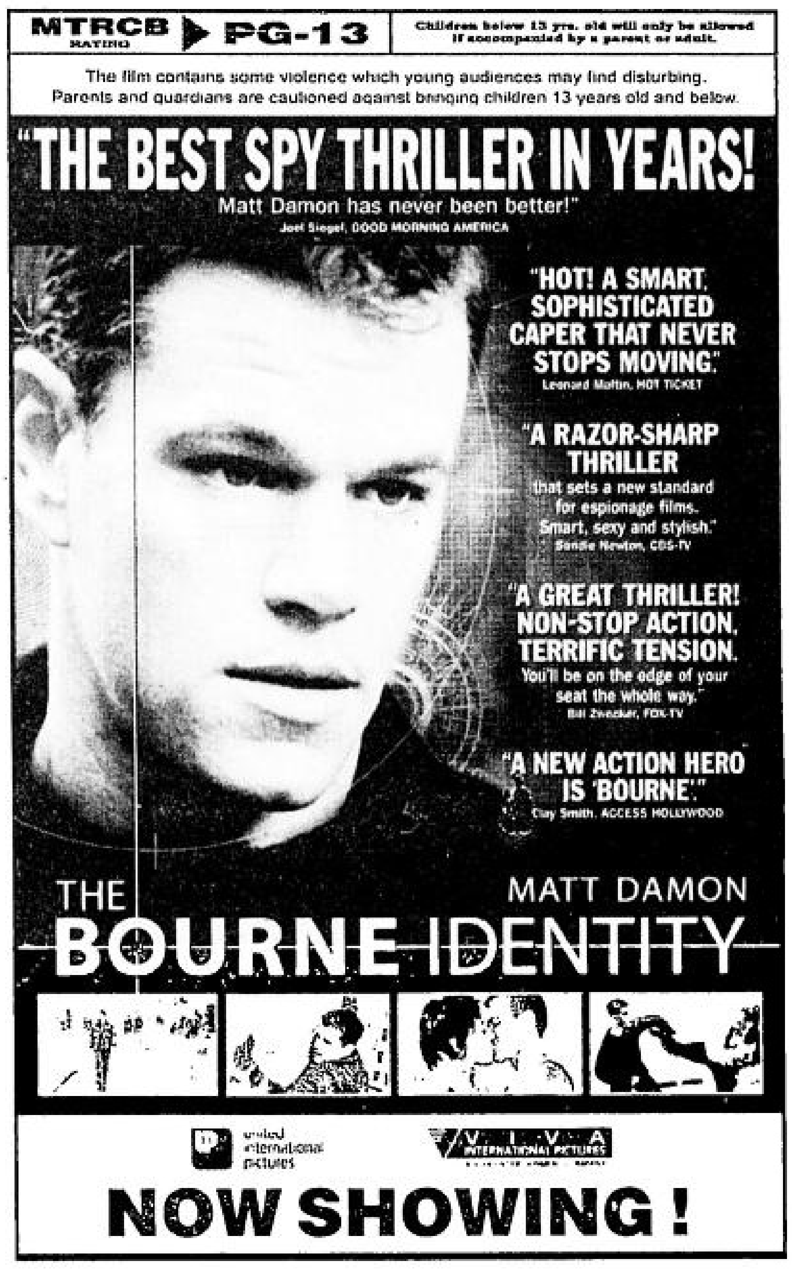
After all, each was instrumental in boosting the other's career, whether some people around Jolens care to admit it or not.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare-@yahoo.com

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	TAMPISAW / PHANTOM OF OPERA
ODEON	BOURNE IDENTITY
ODEON-2	SCORPION KING / LABRADOR
ROBEN	BAKAT
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	MAGINOO / MAGESTIC
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	GAMITAN
REMAR	BAKAT
REMAR-2	GAMITAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BAKAT
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	EIGA SAI 2002 LIFE, LOVE & LAUGHTER
CINEMA-2	AUSTIN POWERS GOLD MEMBER
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKAT
CINEMA-2	DERAILED
CINEMA-3	JOLOGS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SPIRIT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	GAMITAN
CINEMA-6	UNFAITHFUL
CINEMA-7	BOURNE IDENTITY
CINEMA-8	AUSTIN POWERS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BOURNE IDENTITY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SIGNS
CINEMA-12	HIGH RISK
CINEMA-14	HIGH EXPLOSIVES
CINEMA-15	JOLOGS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA


OPENS TOMORROW!
MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
DIVINE SECRETS OF THE YA-YA SISTERHOOD
Mothers. Daughters. The never-ending story of good vs. evil.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The film contains some violence which young audiences may find disturbing. Parents and guardians are cautioned against bringing children 13 years old and below.
"THE BEST SPY THRILLER IN YEARS! Matt Damon has never been better!" Joel Siegel, GOOD MORNING AMERICA
"HOT! A SMART, SOPHISTICATED CAPER THAT NEVER STOPS MOVING." Leonard Maltin, HOT TICKET
"A RAZOR-SHARP THRILLER that sets a new standard for espionage films. Smart, sexy and stylish." Sandie Newton, CBS-TV
"A GREAT THRILLER! NON-STOP ACTION, TERRIFIC TENSION. You'll be on the edge of your seat the whole way." Bill Zwecker, FOX-TV
"A NEW ACTION HERO IS 'BOURNE'." Clay Smith, ACCESS HOLLYWOOD
MATT DAMON
THE BOURNE IDENTITY
united international pictures
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES
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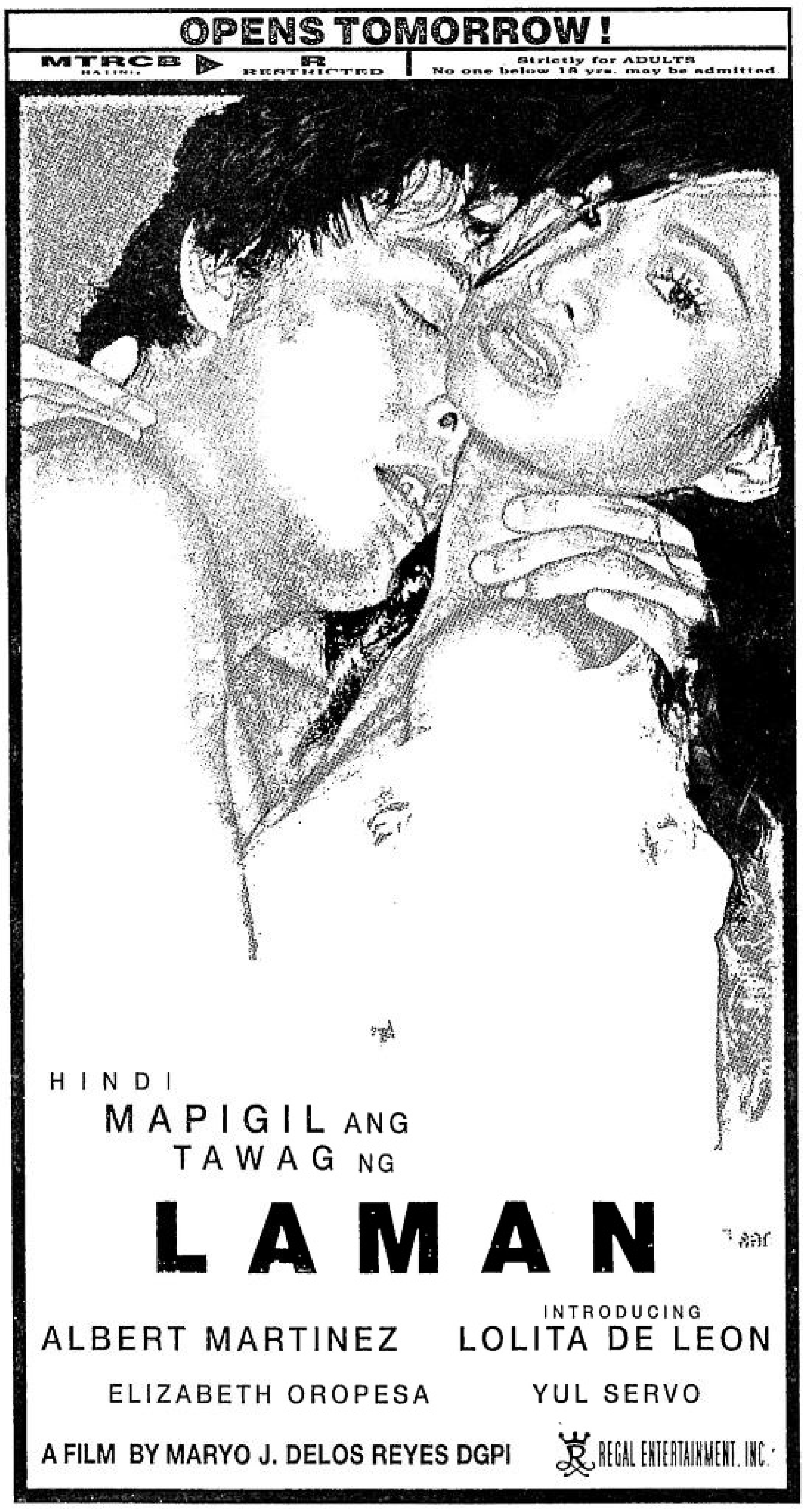
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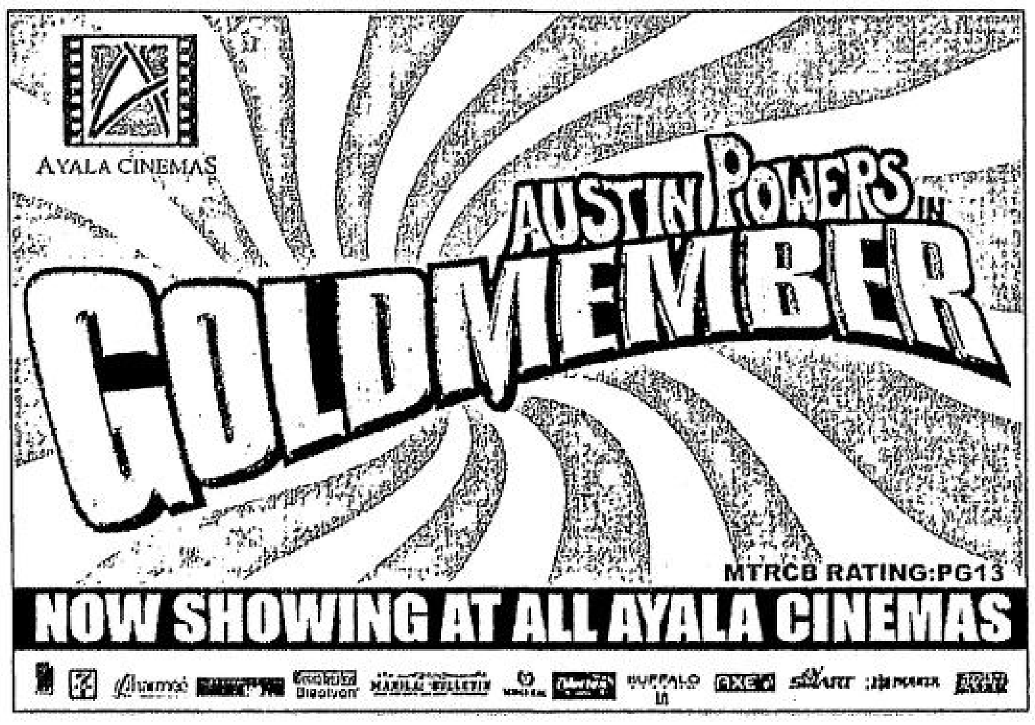
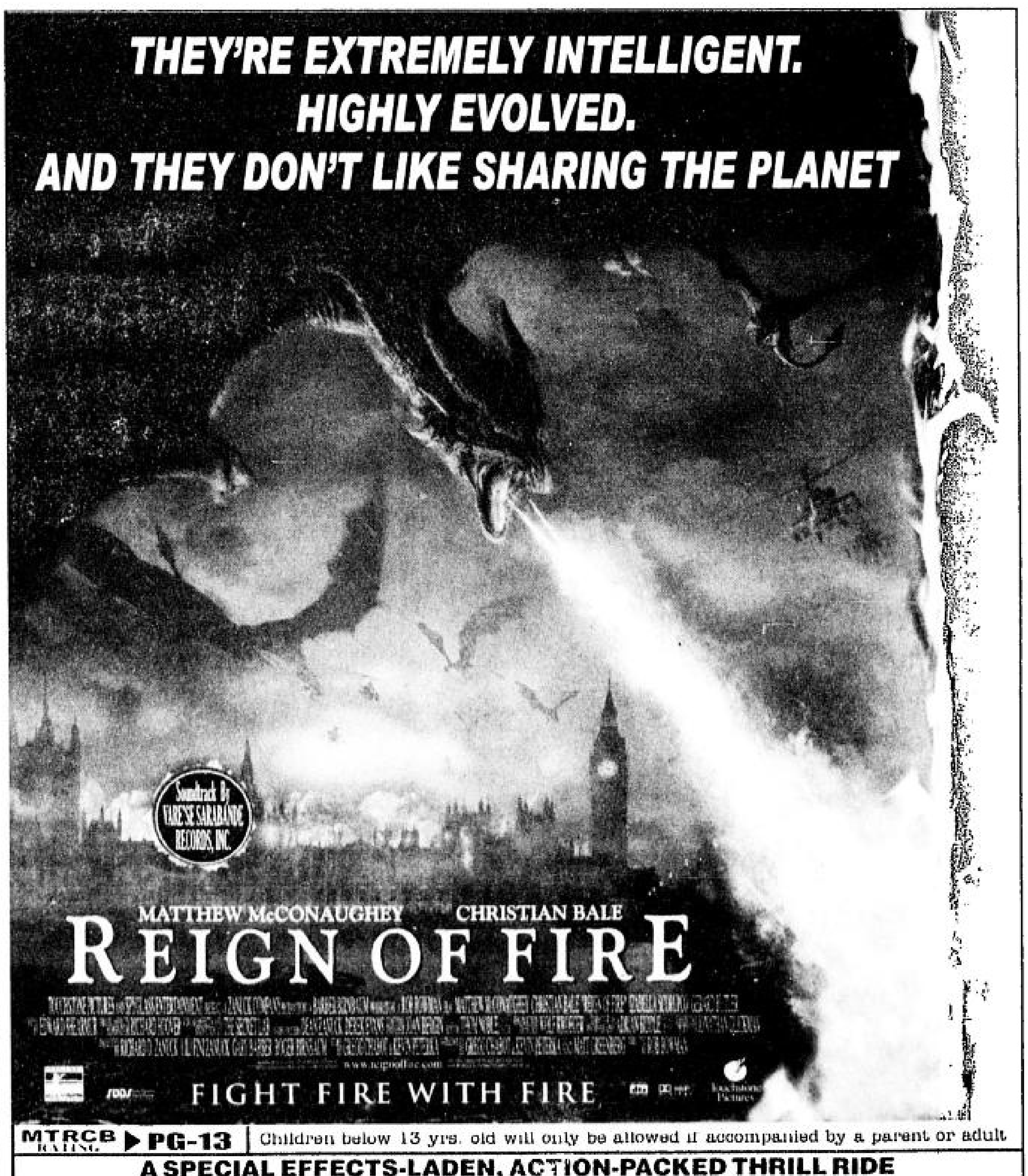
LAMAN
ALBERT MARTINEZ
INTRODUCING LOLITA DE LEON
ELIZABETH OROPESA
YUL SERVO
A FILM BY MARYO J. DELOS REYES DGPI
REGAL ENTERTAINMENT, INC.


AYALA CINEMAS
AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER
MTRCB RATING:PG13
NOW SHOWING AT ALL AYALA CINEMAS


THEY'RE EXTREMELY INTELLIGENT.
HIGHLY EVOLVED.
AND THEY DON'T LIKE SHARING THE PLANET
Soundtrack By VARÈSE SARABANDE RECORDS, INC.
MATTHEW McCONAUGHEY CHRISTIAN BALE
REIGN OF FIRE
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Establishing a script's rightful authorship

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FROM time to time, we get complaints from screenwriters who believe that their stories or scripts have been plagiarized by producers, directors or other writers. What, they ask, can they do to seek redress or damages, and to reclaim rightful ownership of their material?

First, your script should be copyrighted. Some writers also mail their script to themselves but don't open the envelope until they need to prove that they wrote the script inside, by the data on which the envelope was postmarked.

Keep all records, drafts and other material that can prove that you wrote the script, from story idea through various versions of the screenplay. This detailed progression of your work on the script indicates the amount of work you put into it, hence affirming the fact that you are its author.

Next, establish the extent of the plagiarism. If it's only of a brief story idea, plagiarism might be difficult to prove, since coincidences and similarities do happen, even with no intent to copy.

But if the whole script's rightful authorship is being held in question, plagiarism can more readily be proven if you can show exact similarities in plot or scene progression, lines of dialogue, etc. A detailed comparison of the two writers' scripts can convincingly indicate this.

An instructive example of this process for proving plagiarism is provided by US writer **Brian Webster**'s successful effort to prove that his screenplay, "Could This Be Christmas," was plagiarized into the script for the **Arnold Schwarzenegger** starrer, "Jingle All the Way." The film's story was suspiciously similar to Webster's script about a workaholic father who battled to get the Christmas season's most popular toy for his son.

The film's trailer contained exact word-for-word lines that Webster had written. It was particularly galling for Webster to learn that the man who claimed authorship of the script had been paid $ 200,000 for his "pains."

Instead of sulking, Webster set about proving that it was he who had originally written the screenplay for Schwarzenegger's film. After months of preparation, he was ready to prove his case in court.

To prove plagiarism and copyright infringement, he came up with a significant number of instances when the two scripts were identical or near-identical beyond probability or coincidence.

The court believed him and awarded a million-dollar verdict in his script's favor. The case is still being appealed and could be settled out of court for a smaller sum, but Webster's victory has served notice to other plagiarists that they will no longer go scot-free and laugh their way merrily to the bank if they make unauthorized use of other people's works.

Awit Awards

The 15th Awit Awards will be announced at 7 p.m. on Sept. 19 at the Camp Aguinaldo Theater. The awards night show will be aired on Channel 9 on Sept. 21.

Vying for Best Performance by a Female Recording Artist are **Aiza Seguerra, Regine Velasquez, Lea Salonga, Jessa Zaragoza, Jolina Magdangal** and **Sharon Cuneta.**

Best Peformance by a Male Recording Artist—**Martin Nievera, Rico Puno, L.A. Lopez, Ogie Alcasid** and **Dingdong Avanzado.**

The nominees for best new recording artist are (female) **Mari, Rea Valle, Diane de la Fuente, Candy, Mariella, Karylle,** and (male) **D-Coy, Gabby Eigenmann** and **Darwin Monteclar.**

Martin Nievera and **Rowell Santiago**'s "Can't Stop Christmas" got five nominations, as did **Aiza Seguerra**'s "Pagdating ng Panahon."

ESTABLISHING /A25

Regine: Don't let concert promoters destroy our name

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

I WAS deluged with e-mail after I printed the letter of one of my readers regarding Regine Velasquez's no-show in a show in Canada.

I didn't mean to cause an uproar. I meant to get Regine's side of the story. But since my column does not come out daily, I guess that's moot and academic now. She has already clarified the matter through Ricky Lo.

I saw **Boy Abunda**'s interview with Regine on "Etc" and my heart really goes out to her. It turns out that the producers of her concert in Canada duped her as far as payment was concerned. You could see the pain in her eyes as she pleaded, "To my fellow Pinoy artists, if you don't really know who the concert organizer is, please don't ever perform abroad anymore. *Pangalan lang natin ang nasisira!*"

We can only hope that things don't end on a sour note between local talents and overseas concert promoters so that our *kababayan* abroad will still get a taste of good old OPM music.

Rizzo in town

IF you love **Tin-Tin Bersola**'s new look, check out Master of Craft Awardee and WAHL international artist **Marty Rizzo** on Sept 11, 16 and 20. Tin-Tin will be hosting a press conference for Rizzo at the Meeting Room of the Rockwell Club at 1 p.m. on Sept 11.

Rizzo will conduct a series of hands-on clipper cutting seminars.

Internationally, the clipper cutter is no longer just exclusive to barbershops or men's cropped hairstyles. It is also fast becoming the tool to achieve the latest texturized, stylized, deep-layered and uneven hairstyles for women. With enough practice you can become a cutting genius and produce the latest texture styles. By clipper-cutting in the direction of the finished style, you can actually watch the hair dance!

For inquiries, call Top Style Marketing at 726-8507 and 08.

Just asking

HOW true are murmurs that **John Estrada** is not too happy that **Ai-Ai de las Alas** hosts more portions than he does on "MTB?" If this is so, he should

REGINE /A25

VELASQUEZ

JOEY @ 92.3 Rhythms fm METRO MANILA
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SIGNS P13 12:40.3:00,5:20, 7:45,10:00	THE ROOKIE GP 1:00.3:50, 6:40, 9:30	LILO & STITCH GP 12:50.2:40, 4:30

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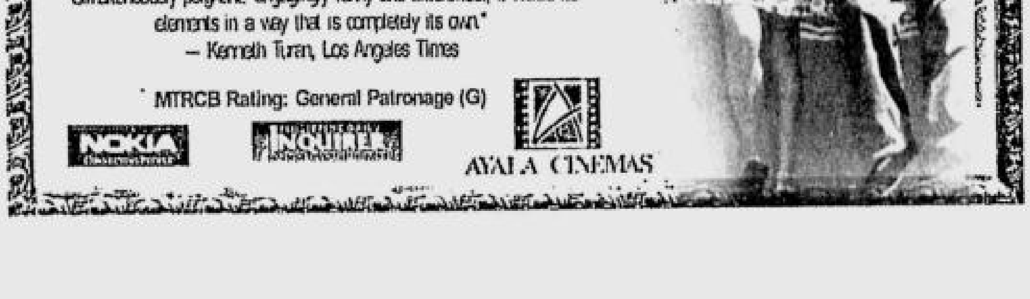

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SEPTEMBER 10, 2002

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BIR, Customs hit for slow implementation of reforms

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has put to task the bureaus of Internal Revenue and of Customs for the slow implementation of reform measures that yielded only P2.66 billion in additional revenues for the first seven months against a combined full-year target of P21 billion.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the slow implementation of the administrative reform measures was partly to blame for the huge shortfall sustained by the two agencies during the first seven months.

As of July, the BIR's shortfall reached P41.4 billion while Customs was P11.2 billion off its target. The two agencies generate about 90 percent of the government's revenues every year.

For 2002, the BIR must raise P422.5 billion while Customs must deliver P99.6 billion against the original target of P447.6 billion and P115.1 billion.

"Out of the P16 billion in administrative measures identified by the BIR, it has not even achieved one-fourth. And this is one of the factors hampering the collection," Camacho said. The Customs should bring in an additional P5 billion in collection from reform measures being instituted from its end.

But as of July, the finance department estimated that the BIR had only implemented P2.5 billion of the P16 billion in reform measures this year while Customs only raised P160 million out of P5 billion.

"The impact of the reforms is only beginning to happen. We could have done some of these reforms earlier but at least, we are starting to see the positive effect, particularly on the intensive auditing of value-added tax payments," Camacho explained.

As of July, the BIR collection of the 10-percent VAT improved by 10.4 percent and this partly offset the weakness in other areas caused by lower interest rates. Camacho said the low interest rates for the year accounted for a fourth of the BIR's shortfall as banks' tax payment on interest income—which contributes a substantial portion of revenue—fell.

BIR/ B4

Ford invests ₱700M to expand RP plant

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

FORD Motor Co. Philippines Inc. has invested an additional P700 million to beef up its Sta. Rosa, Laguna, factory to churn out more Lynx sedan and Escape sport utility vehicles for export to Asean countries.

Ford Philippines president Henry Co said the added investments to its initial outlay of P4 billion would support the world's number 2 carmaker's strategy to make the Philippines one of its export hubs in the upcoming Asean Free Trade Area.

Ford, which started its export program six months ago, is aiming to ship out 6,000 completely built up units of Lynx and Escape to Thailand and Indonesia by the end of this year. Ford plans to double the figure to 12,000 next year in line with its ultimate goal of exporting 65,000 units by 2006.

"We are the first volume exporter of CBUs in the Philippines and this event has been widely chronicled as a major achievement in the Philippine automotive industry," Co said.

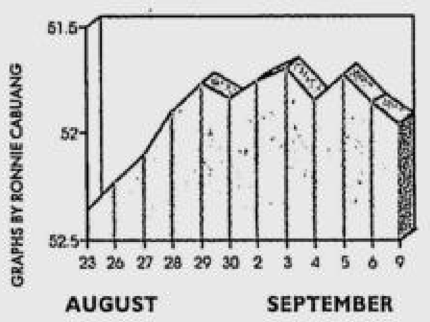
Co said these exports should generate $57 million in dollar earnings to the Philippines as well as create new jobs in Laguna with the tripling of its production output.

Ford has implemented a $1.2-billion production sharing agreement between the American carmaker's subsidiaries in the Philippines and Thailand.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

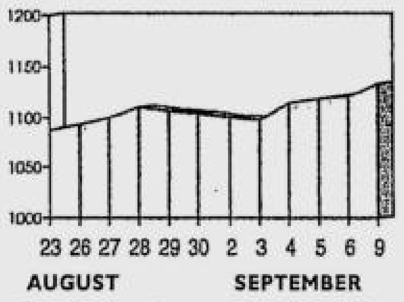
₱ 51.955 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 9, 2002

¥ 118.72 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 9, 2002

GOLD: $321.25-321.75
per ounce Hong Kong,
Sept. 9, 2002

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks close higher

THE STOCK market index rose more than one percent yesterday after talk that the country's largest conglomerate, Ayala Corp., could take over a major property project being developed by Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd.

"The market was mainly boosted by speculation of the Ayala group on Metro Pacific. The market also continued to digest the positive macro-economic results that were released last week," said A&A Securities research head Astro del Castillo.

The main index closed 12.15 points or 1.08 percent higher at 1,133.46 points, the fourth straight session that local shares ended up.

Value turnover rose to P284.23 million from Friday's P277.5 million.

Gainers beat losers 24 to 22 and there were 30 stocks unchanged.

Index heavyweight Ayala Corp. rose 3.85 percent on reports that it was conducting due-diligence on Bonifacio Land Corp. *Reuters*

PCI Leasing rating upgraded

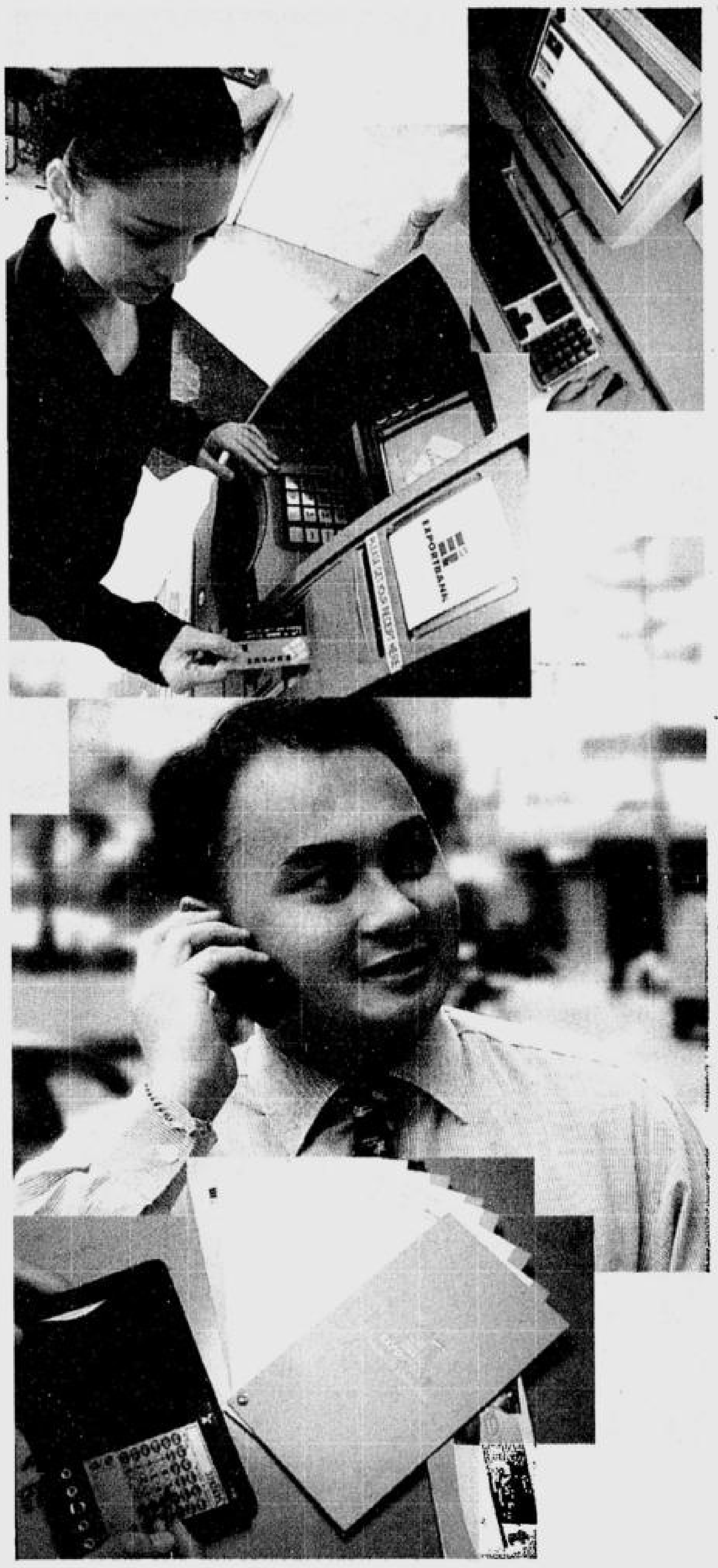
PHILIPPINE Rating Services Corp., an affiliate of Standard & Poor's, has upgraded its rating of PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.'s P250 million in short-term commercial papers to PRS minus 1, the highest possible rating.

The latest rating is an improvement from last year's rating of PRS 2 plus for the leasing and finance firm's previous P500-million STCP line.

PRS 1 is defined as: "Strongest capability for timely payment of debt instrument issue on both interest and principal."

In arriving at IPCI Leasing's improved STCP rating, Philratings said in a statement, it considered the significant hike in operating revenue and net income in 2001 and in the 2002 year-to-date, brought about by higher business volumes and tight control over major expense items.

The ratings agency also noted that stronger support was seen from parent company Equitable PCI Bank with PCI Leasing president and chief executive Rene Buenaventura concurrently occupying the same positions in the bank.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No such thing as a free launch

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

ABOUT 10 years ago, somebody told Kuya Eddie to order the biggest local taipans to come together to build us a new world-class international airport terminal.

Again, one more time with feeling, that was 10 long years ago. Today, with any luck, nobody can still be certain just exactly when the new terminal will open.

Our government officials cannot agree—i.e. they are still fighting among themselves—how to resolve the many controversial issues on the project.

Down here at our foodchain level, nevertheless, the launch date of the new terminal is the least of our worries. After all, we are only paying for everything.

I guess we just wonder about the erratic cost of the terminal. It has gone up from the original $250 million under the taipans to a whopping $650 million under Piatco.

For whether or not they can decide the date of the new terminal's launching, who cuts the ribbon and all, it is still not going to be a free launch.

* * *

LOOK at that—six hundred fifty million dollars! That's our bill! But the problem is, even with that kind of money, we don't even know what we are paying for, monsieur.

In business, they have this thing called an audit. This is how they know, when they are spending big money, whether or not they are getting their money's worth.

For such a costly project as the $650-million Naia Terminal 3, I cannot believe that our beloved public officials are only worried about the Piatco investors.

None of them is asking, perhaps not even just to themselves, where all the money went, which at current exchange rate amounts to an amazing P34 billion.

Perhaps we can begin by comparing the cost of building similar terminals in other countries. Who can tell what surprises we may find?

Then we can go for a complete and thorough audit. It should be done by an international group. Let it not be, of course, the US-based Arthur Andersen.

* * *

AN audit, anyway, will be most helpful to the Cabinet committee which Gloriaetta assigned to, er, "review" the Piatco contract with the government.

The committee, as you know, is headed by Justice Secretary Laar . . . *este* Nani Perez, who tells us that he has a mind of his own.

Nani wants to renegotiate the terms of the Piatco contract, perhaps even those which mysteriously appeared during the time of the man named Band . . . Wrist Band.

One thing is clear to everybody: Those changes in the contract made it onerous against the government. In other words, they made the dice heavily loaded.

Down here at our foodchain level, if you load the dice, you are not only out of the game, dammit, but you also have to quit the human race.

Up there, I suppose they always talk it out. They must agree, first, if they must change the dice. They are not playing with their own money. We pay for everything.

* * *

THAT death and taxes are the only certainties in life may not be entirely true. We always forget another certainty. Where there are taxes, there must always be cheating.

The BIR, as you know, is running after hundreds of business establishments which cheat on their payments of the value-added tax, or the VAT.

While the campaign already made a lot of tax lawyers and consultants happy, I am not sure if they can handle all the cases which the BIR intends to file.

Last time I checked, the BIR already discovered close to P7 billion of underdeclared VAT. "Underdeclared," in BIR parlance, also means "cheating."

And that was about two weeks ago, and insiders told me that the amount was growing every day. A month ago, for instance, the amount was only P4 billion.

Involved in those cases were about 300 business establishments. The latest count put the number at close to 600 establishments.

It so happens that the BIR has 12 lawyers from the Department of Justice who do nothing else but file cases. They are like a factory assembly line of tax cases. Be warned.

* * *

WHO is this guy who controls the transport service for the grain which the National Food Authority sells to private business? Well, it's only a multimillion-peso business.

Word going around is, the guy is the brother of a Metro Manila mayor. They also have a family name which is famous in big business.

Supposedly, if you believe the whispers at the NFA, our hero secured that rather fat contract with NFA through somebody big at the Department of Agriculture.

It is not clear nevertheless what the lucky guy did to corner the contract virtually. Nobody is sure if the agriculture department gave him the four-way test or something.

Covering the deal would be the grain which we get from the US government for free. To convert it into cash, our government sells it to private companies.

One big cost to the buyers is the transport. The grain must be moved from the pier to their warehouses, through barges, trucks and what have you.

Ordinarily, in any transaction in the private sector, the buyers are free to choose who to hire for transporting the goods, not even if you are the mayor's brother.

BIR, Customs . . .

From page B1

The measures the BIR has started to implement included the introduction of a relief system for VAT to enable the bureau to verify taxpayers' compliance, an industry benchmarking to ensure that firms found remitting lower than the benchmarks would be automatically audited, and the creation of an internal audit team.

Starting Aug. 1, the BIR began to introduce the electronic filing system for large taxpayers and finally, the bureau said it has started to reengineer tax processes for VAT, excise tax, and one-time tax transactions.

Customs, for its part, has vowed to keenly monitor assessment levels of the transaction value system, the reengineering of the warehousing system, the enhancement and computerization of monitoring, and tighter policies on collection of duties and taxes on raw materials for garments.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Monday, September 9, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18	18.5	18	18.5	103,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45	45.5	45	45	313,800
China Banking Corp.	620	620	620	620	7,050
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	9,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	28.5	28.5	28	28	419,600
First E-Bank Corp.	1.14	1.16	1.14	1.16	21,000
Global Business Bank Inc.	65	65	65	65	51,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34	35	34	34.5	146,400
Philippine National Bank	32	32	31.5	31.5	11,100
Phil. Savings Bank	25	25	25	25	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.5	12.5	52,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	19,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1145	1150	1145	1150	960
Sun Life Financial Serv.	885	890	885	890	1,260
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24	24.5	24	24	10,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.51	0.51	750,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	495	515	495	515	14,240
Ipeople Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	100,000
Piltel	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	80,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	292.5	295	290	295	53,180
Ivantage Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	20,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	26,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19.25	19.25	19	19	15,700
Manila Electric Co. B	32.5	32.5	32.5	32.5	223,500
Petron Corp.	1.64	1.66	1.64	1.66	1,011,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	390,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	18,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	100,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	453,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.44	18,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	124,600
RFM Corp.	0.78	0.79	0.78	0.79	730,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48.5	49.5	48.5	49	75,800
San Miguel Corp. B	52	53.5	52	53	343,100
Universal Robina Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	18,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.34	0.37	0.34	0.37	40,000
Ayala Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.2	5.4	7,126,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.38	2.4	2.36	2.4	956,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	5,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.6	55,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	30,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.15	0.175	0.15	0.15	580,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.245	6,740,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	300,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	10,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	1.4	1.4	1	1	40,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	13.75	14	13.75	14	961,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	500,000
Ionics Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	10,000
Jollville Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	880,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.59	0.58	0.59	1,110,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	3,830,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.72	0.72	160,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	10,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Macondray Plastics Inc	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48	1,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24.5	24.5	24.25	24.25	65,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.9	6	5.9	5.9	17,756,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	60,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	180,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	4,070,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.16	1.16	1,748,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	1,000,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	50,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.17	0.18	0.17	0.18	3,080,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	5,000
SM Development Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	280,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	1,650,000
MINING					
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	1,500,000
Philex Mining Corp. B'	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	100,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	500,000
Interport Res.	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	20,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc.	1,157,170	44,316,310.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	59,966,020	119,583,060.00
PRO	29,877,000	119,576,060.00
Mining	1,600,000	544,000.00
OIL	25,500,000	73,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	118,100,190	284,092,430.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc.	442.29	UP 2.10
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,559.75	UP 21.86
PRO	522.33	DOWN 0.66
Mining	1,194.40	DOWN 6.02
OIL	1.39	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	630.70	UP 3.78
Composite	1,133.46	UP 12.15

NO. OF ADVANCES: 24; NO. OF DECLINES: 22; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 30; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 76; NO. OF TRADES: 1,321

DISCLOSURES

JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. sold close to 2.7 million of its shares to **Queenbee Resources Corp.** in relation to the bonus warrants declared by QRC on Aug. 30.

* * *

CHINATRUST Commercial Bank Corp. denied having any interest in buying **First e-Bank's** network of branches.

* * *

THE BOARD of **iPeople Inc.** has approved the dissolution of the company's subsidiary **IEWorks Inc.**

* * *

BANCO de Oro Universal Bank disclosed that the Securities and Exchange Commission had approved the articles of incorporation of its subsidiary **BDO Credit Corp.** The bank also clarified that although it had submitted proposals to acquire **First e-Bank's** branches, no agreement was reached. Currently, the bank has an outstanding proposal to acquire the assets and assume the liabilities of First e-Bank on a selective basis.

* * *

A.BROWN Co. Inc. bought 50,000 of its own shares at P0.50 per share.

* * *

FIDELITY Stock Transfers Inc. announced that **Philodrill Corp.** stock certificates with numbers A0243649 and A0254116 had been placed under "stop transfer order" status. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

Sept. 9, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.018434	1.000000	51.7900
Japan	Yen	0.008596	0.008440	0.4371
United Kingdom	Pound	1.587229	1.558500	80.7147
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130570	0.128207	6.6398
Switzerland	Franc	0.686184	0.673764	34.8942
Canada	Dollar	0.653219	0.641396	33.2179
Singapore	Dollar	0.581963	0.571429	29.5943
Australia	Dollar	0.556764	0.546687	28.3129
Bahrain	Dinar	2.701487	2.652590	137.3776
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.271583	0.266667	13.8107
Brunei	Dollar	0.581463	0.570939	29.5689
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000115	0.000113	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.024093	0.023657	1.2252
UAE	Dirham	0.277283	0.272264	14.1006
Korea	Won	0.000859	0.000843	0.0437
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.981900	50.8526
Argentina	Real	0.282114	0.277008	14.3462
Brazil	Real	0.320868	0.315060	16.3170
Denmark	Kroner	0.134658	0.132221	6.8477
India	Rupee	0.021011	0.020631	1.0685
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.268045	0.263193	13.6308
Mexico	New Peso	0.102130	0.100281	5.1936
New Zealand	Dollar	0.478452	0.469792	24.3305
Norway	Kroner	0.135764	0.133307	6.9040
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017023	0.016892	0.8748
South Africa	Rand	0.097225	0.095465	4.9441
Sweden	Kroner	0.108711	0.106743	5.5282
Syria	Pound	0.023041	0.022624	1.1717
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029936	0.029394	1.5223
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000707	0.000694	0.0359

NATIONWIDE TRAINING FOR PROGRESS

Aiming for Global Competitiveness Endorsed by the Construction Industry, Accredited by the Civil Service Commission and Other Government Agencies

Construction Management Seminars
(Designed in line with the needs of the construction managers certification program of the construction industry with reference to the Project Management Body of Knowledge of USA)
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Construction Project Time Management — Oct. 24-25

Construction Supervisory Training & Seminars
Construction Safety & Health for Safety Officer — Nov. 11-15
(Accredited by the DOLE-Bureau of Working Condition)
Road Construction — Oct. 17-18
(Aligned with the DPWH's Knowledge & Skills Requirements)
Materials Engineers Course — Nov. 7, 8, 28 & 29
(Aligned with the DPWH's Accreditation Requirements)

Productivity and Quality Seminars
(Supports the Philippine Quality Award)
Value Re-orientation for Service Excellence, Supervisory Development, Cooperation for Productivity & Quality, Quality Control Circles, 5S or Good Housekeeping Practices, ISO 9000 in Construction (Quality Mgmt System), ISO 14000 in Construction (Environmental Mgmt. System) — In company - open for reservation

Engineering Student Trainings & Seminars
(Supports the Industry-Academe Linkage Program of DTI)
Rebar Works, Concrete Works, Electrical Works, Structural Works, Road Construction Works, Heavy Equipment, Various Technology Seminars, Rebar Detailing and Cutting List Preparation, Formworks Detailing, Value Engineering — In school / In our training center

Construction Skills Training
(Aligned with TESDA's skills standard requirements)
Heavy Equipment Maintenance-Upgrading
Engine Overhauling — Sept. 12-13
Hydraulic System — Oct. 11-12
Heavy Equipment Operation-upgrading — Oct. 17-18
Bulldozer, Motorgrader, Hydraulic Excavator, Payloader

Skills Trade Testing & Certification
(Accredited by TESDA for their Skills Certification Program)
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September 2002

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AS OF SEPT. 9, 2002

	SELLING	BUYING
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2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,700,000	1,600,000
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	700,000	680,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	80,000	
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	280,000	250,000
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	550,000	
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	120,000	110,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	180,000	170,000
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	400,000	380,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	190,000	
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	200,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	350,000	
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	100,000	
14. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	200,000
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
17. LUISITA GOLF CLUB	400,000	
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	250,000	
19. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	270,000	240,000
20. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)		10,500,000
21. MANILA GOLF CLUB (CORP.)	13,000,000	
22. MANILA POLO CLUB	2,800,000	2,600,000
23. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	650,000	600,000
24. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	730,000	700,000
25. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	110,000	
26. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	150,000	
27. MT MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	340,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A" "B" "C"	Please call	Please call
29. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	220,000	200,000
30. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	200,000	
31. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	210,000	
32. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	340,000	320,000
33. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,800,000	
34. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND.)	250,000	
35. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L GOLF CLUB	850,000	800,000
36. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	800,000	750,000
37. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	150,000	
38. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	300,000	260,000
39. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	6,000,000	

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BIG DEMAND FOR AUVS, SUVS

Jan.-Aug. auto sales up

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AUTOMOTIVE sales surged higher through the first eight months this year as robust demand for commercial vehicles more than made up for the declining turnover of passenger cars.

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. reported that sales hit 53,927 units from January to August this year from 50,324 units in the same period last year. August sales of 7,792 units were 9.8 percent better than the previous month's sales of 7,095 and 0.9 percent higher than the 7,720 registered during the same month last year.

Sales of Asian and sport utility vehicles, vans, pickups, trucks and buses jumped 13.4 percent to 39,132 units in the first eight months this year from 34,506 units during the same period last year.

Sales of compact, mid-range and luxury sedans dropped 6.5 percent to 14,795 units during the eight-month period from 15,818 units in the same period last year.

More Filipinos are willing to shell out a few thousands of pesos more to buy AUVs rather than cars to get a bigger, rugged vehicle with relatively the same riding comfort.

This could be gleaned from the long waiting line for new AUV models against the poor sales of sedans despite the generous perks given by dealers to sway buyers to pick passenger cars. Commercial vehicles currently have a 73-percent share of total industry sales, up from their 69-percent share last year.

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. remained the dominant assembler in the country with a 30-percent market share or 15,993 units sold in the first eight months this year. Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. was No. 2 with a 20-percent market share or 10,662 units sold.

Rounding up the top 5 were Honda Cars Philippines Inc. (15 percent or 7,995 units); Isuzu Philippines Corp. (13.5 percent or 7,232 units), and Nissan Motor group (9 percent or 4,744 units).

WESM to start operations in '03

By Ronnel W. Domingo

NATIONAL Transmission Corp. yesterday said the wholesale electricity spot market could start operating as early as the third quarter of 2003 with the recent approval by the Asian Development Bank of a P300-million funding for the project.

Transco president Asisclo Gonzaga said in an interview that the bidding for the software platform to be used in the spot market could be held as soon as the loan agreement was signed.

"We expect to be able to award the contract for the software by December," Gonzaga said.

The Transco chief said that after the final market management system was chosen, the state firm would need about eight months to prepare for the actual operation of the electricity exchange.

He reiterated that Transco would skip the planned interim WESM with a corresponding interim market management system.

The decision also came after weeks of waiting for the World Bank to approve the results of a previous bidding for the interim market management system.

The World Bank was supposed to fund the interim WESM with a $7-million facility.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez earlier explained that an autonomous group would initially manage the market for one year before a private operator would take over.

The autonomous group market operator will be composed of representatives from industry players and will be led by the energy department.

Tariff program review a boost to industries

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's apparent softening on trade liberalization has bolstered the Fair Trade Alliance's (FTA) hopes that the scheduled tariff reductions would be deferred to give the manufacturing and agriculture industries extra time to enhance their competitiveness.

FTA convenor and former Senator Wigberto Tañada said: "The order of the President to review the tariff cuts is a positive step in the effort to rationalize the government's unjust tariff policies that have been implemented without regard to their ill effects on local industries, agriculture and jobs, and without consultation with the affected sectors."

Tañada said the President's apparent change of heart indicated her sensitivity to the difficulties encountered by industries and agriculture that have gone through the Asian financial crisis and political crisis at home.

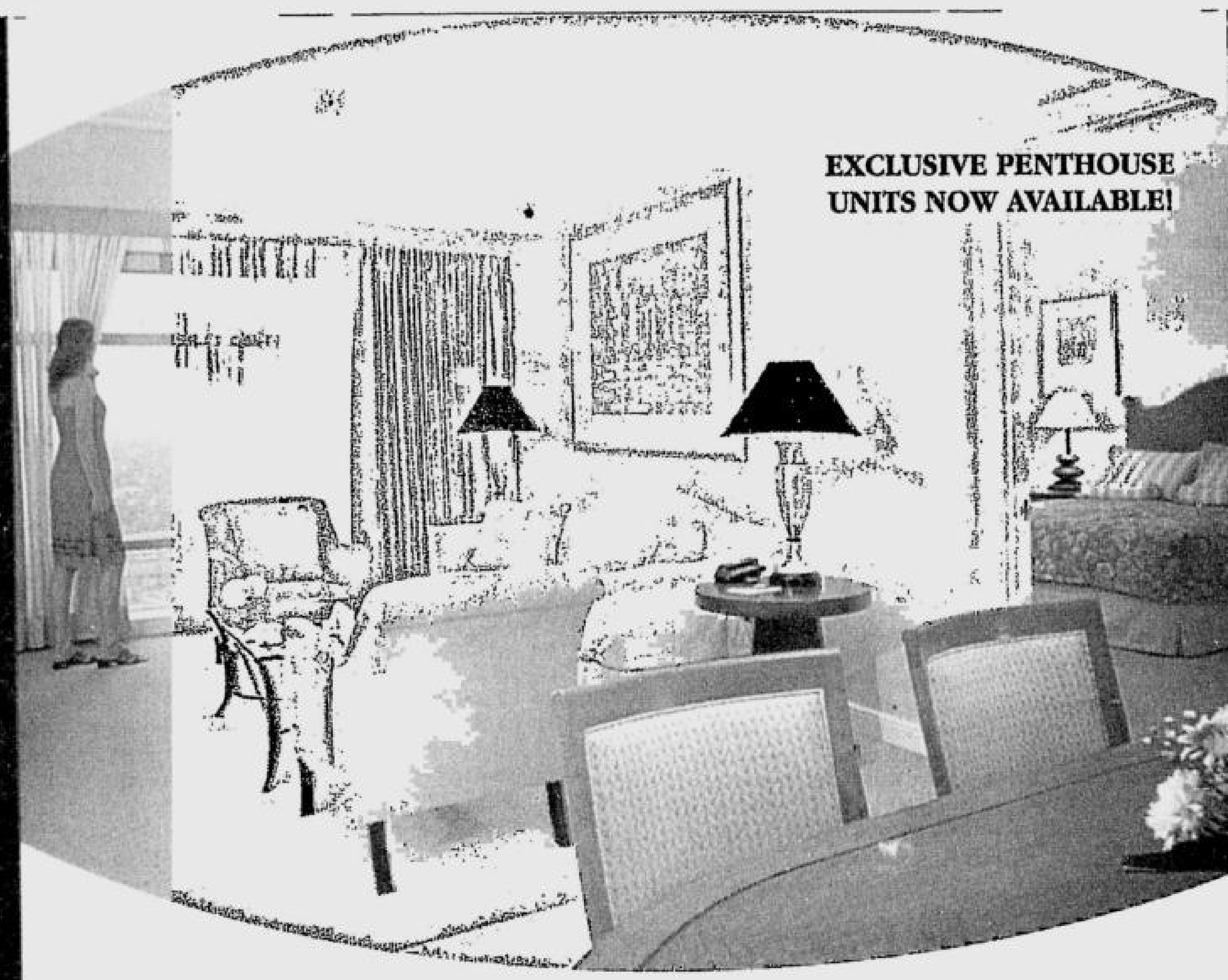
Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II earlier said the President had ordered her economic managers to review the plea of the manufacturing and agriculture sectors to delay the scheduled reduction of duties on intra-Asean traded goods to no more than 5 percent next year under the Asean Free Trade Area-Common Effective Preferential Tariff (Afta-CEPT).

Tañada said FTA would request for a meeting with the President to broaden the review coverage to include the unilateral tariff reduction program of the National Economic Development Authority (Neda) under the most-favored nation (MFN) scheme where tariffs on imports from non-Asean countries would also fall to no higher than 5 percent by 2004. Tañada said the Philippines was under no obligation to implement the tariff cuts.

FTA will also ask the President for an increase in RP's tariff lines and push for measures that will reduce the costs of production inputs such as utilities, transport and interest rates.

Tañada said the FTA was offering its support to the government in rationalizing the Philippines' tariff reduction programs. "In order to negotiate in the best interests of the country, our negotiators have to understand the situation of industries as well as the export market. That is why it is imperative that there be formal mechanisms for consultation between Government and the private sector," said Tañada.

The FTA is a multi-sector organization of industry, agriculture, labor and civil society groups that has spearheaded protest actions for the junking of the country's economic policies. Its supporters include Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. ***Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.***



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ADB OKs release of loan

NAGA CITY—The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed to release the second tranche of the $170-million Grains Sector Development Program (GSDP) based on the revised conditions the Department of Agriculture had submitted.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said here on Saturday that the ADB was about to release anytime this year $30 million in policy loan and $75 million in investment loan even as the original conditions were revised.

Originally, Montemayor said, the ADB would not release the second tranche of the GSDP loan because it wanted President Macapagal-Arroyo to sign as urgent a bill that would remove the quantitative restriction on rice importation.

But, he said, government negotiators insisted that the condition that President Macapagal signs an urgent bill to remove quantitative restriction on rice importation must not be included because the passage of the law was an independent prerogative of the legislature.

"The President does not control Congress, so that they should not make a condition for the release of the second tranche by making the President pressure Congress," the agriculture secretary added.

Montemayor added that another condition that has been revised was the demand of ADB to place a cap on government subsidy to not more than P9 to P10 per kilo for rice bought from farmers.

He said they had explained that the buying price the government gave to farmers had its own conditions and were not availed of by all.

Montemayor said the P0.50 incentive the government was giving to farmers was tied to certain requirements the National Food Authority (NFA) was imposing.

"Apparently, the ADB has agreed with our proposed revisions and we have gotten communication from them that they will be releasing the second tranche of the $170-million GSDP loan," he said. ***Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

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ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT

Tuna firms told not to rely too much on US

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
PDI Mindanao Bureau

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo has discouraged local tuna producers here from depending too much on the US market.

Ms Macapagal told participants to the 4th Tuna Congress here last week that there was a bigger market—China.

"While your government is working hard for an even playing field for your tuna products, try exploring other markets abroad," the President said.

Ms Macapagal said China had 1.3 billion people, which made it a potential alternative to the US market.

Earlier, the US Congress removed tariff barriers on canned tuna from Andean countries, a move seen by local tuna producers as detrimental to the industry.

The decision came about even as the Macapagal administration lobbied hard for the non-approval of the Andean bill.

But the President said she was thankful to some US legislators, including Senators Hilary Clinton and Daniel Inouye, for leading the so-called Philippine Caucus, a group of American legislators in the US Congress protecting the Philippines' interest.

The members of this group, the President claimed, were very vocal in protecting the Philippine interest during the debate for the Andean bill.

Ms Macapagal asked local tuna producers to pass a resolution that would urge the members of the US Congress, particularly those comprising the Philippine Caucus, to work harder in protecting the Philippine tuna industry.

As this developed, the President said her administration was making headway in securing bilateral agreements with other countries to expand the country's fishing access.

One classic example was the finalization of a bilateral agreement with Indonesia regarding the grant of fishing access to Philippine tuna fishing operators in the "Identified Exclusive Economic Zones" (IEEZ) of Sulawesi Sea.

The agreement allows 75 catcher vessels, also known as mother boats, along with 450 carrier or service boats to operate in the designated Indonesia waters.

The agreement also grants the same access to 10 single seines and 20 fishing vessels using the long-line method in catching tuna to operate in the specified Indonesian fishing grounds.

Ms Macapagal said with the signing of the agreement, the government was expecting to generate 20,000 new job opportunities.

The President said enhancing the competitiveness of the tuna industry would not just greatly boost the national economy, but also help achieve her vision of a strong republic.

She said it was also an important factor in stabilizing peace and security in Mindanao.

HSBC Philippines CEO to head Singapore outfit

SINGAPORE—The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. Ltd. said yesterday that Paul Lawrence would take over as chief executive of its operations in Singapore on Jan. 6.

Lawrence will succeed Eric Gill, who will retire next year after more than 34 years with the bank.

Lawrence, who joined HSBC in 1982, is now chief executive of HSBC in the Philippines and chair of HSBC Savings Bank (Philippines).

Gill was appointed as CEO of HSBC Singapore in January 2000.

HSBC is one of six foreign banks in the city state with qualifying full bank privileges, which allow it to have 15 branches and/or off-premise automated teller machines.

Reuters

CFIP marks furniture week

THE CHAMBER of Furniture Industries of the Philippines (CFIP) is set to celebrate "Furniture Week" on the third week of September.

CFIP has come up with a month-long series of activities to commemorate the event. Highlights of the month are a "Consumer Awareness Program," the "Furniture Forum" and the "Presidents' Meeting."

Furniture Week was institutionalized two years ago by virtue of Proclamation No. 368, declaring the third week of September as "Furniture Week."

The proclamation is an offshoot of the Magna Carta for Small Enterprises enacted on Jan. 24, 1991.

"Given that 90 percent of the players in the furniture industry are also categorized as SMEs, it was a natural tendency to institutionalize a program that will support our development," CFIP national president Jose Leo Caparas said.

Also, the furniture industry is considered a productive sector, having been declared as one of the country's export winners.

"Because of the international exposure of our industry as a whole, we believe that there is a need for a continuous program supported by the government to implement a consistent awareness program that serves as an assurance for the need to be more competitive," Caparas said.

28 co-ops sign supply contracts with Napocor

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. said yesterday that less than half of the country's distribution utilities and electric cooperatives have agreed to enter into transitional contracts as mandated by the power reform law.

In an interview, Napocor department manager for marketing and commercial relations Maharlika Oaferina said 28 distributors and cooperatives have firmed up new transitional supply contracts, or TSCs, with Napocor.

"Aside from that, Napocor has adopted supplementary agreements with 31 (retailers) where the existing contracts would also be the TSC," Oaferina said.

He added that 31 other electricity distributors were "undecided" on whether to sign TSCs with Napocor.

Napocor has supply contracts with a large majority of the country's 119 electric cooperatives and about 20 distribution utilities.

The Electric Power Industry Reform Act requires Napocor to submit to the Energy Regulatory Commission TSCs "duly negotiated with the (retailers) containing the terms and conditions of supply and a corresponding schedule of rates."

The TSCs cover a four-year period between June 26, 2001 and June 26, 2005.

The open access scheme opens up the retailers' franchise areas to competition. Incumbent distributors no longer enjoy exclusive rights to sell electricity.

New distributors, called "aggregators," will be allowed to compete with the incumbents, provided that they will initially serve a market representing a total demand of a megawatt.

Energy officials say the threshold will be reduced later to 750 kilowatts and further down to the household level.

The law gave Napocor until December last year to submit the TSCs, although the ERC extended the deadline to this month.

ERC Chair Fe Barin said in an interview last month that there would be sanctions should Napocor fail to submit the TSCs within the month. She did not elaborate.

The power reform law also provides that the ERC will decide on the TSCs within six months of their submission.

BellTel, Destiny link-up to offer satellite services

BELL Telecommunication Philippines Inc. and Destiny Satellite Corp. have agreed to form an alliance to offer satellite-based voice and data services.

BellTel said in a statement released yesterday that it would use Destiny's satellite facilities to complement its own network.

"Our current satellite facilities allow us to deliver data services to clients nationwide. Destiny Satellite's satellite facilities, on the other hand, will allow us to deliver high-capacity voice services. With this partnership, BellTel now has the capacity to provide converged high-bandwidth data services and high-capacity voice services to different industries nationwide," BellTel vice president for sales and marketing Joby de Belen said.

He said BellTel's target market for its satellite-based services were companies in the tourism and manufacturing sectors.

Hotels, resorts, export-import industry companies and manufacturing plants located in economic processing zones usually have multiple line requirements that may be efficiently serviced by BellTel's new range of services, he said.

He added that government agencies in the countryside and in urban centers could benefit from these products.

With these enhanced, convergent satellite services, he said, BellTel would be able to take a "significant step towards its vision of becoming the leading telecom company in the country in delivering state-of-the art converged communications solutions."

BellTel is a full-service telecommunications company specializing in delivering "next-generation" communications solutions to business enterprises and high-end consumer market.

Destiny Satellite is authorized to provide domestic VSAT (very small aperture terminal) services. It also has its own Earth station satellite operations facility.

Abigail L. Ho

'All things being equal, we still would have forged IPP contracts'

By Francisco L. Viray and Guido Alfredo A. Delgado

COMMENTARY

THE ARITHMETIC becomes apparent. If hydro production falls—a certainty during El Niño spells—the excess capacity would almost be wiped out. And the National Irrigation Authority, in its anniversary report in May, announced it is now preparing its contingency plan for the onset of El Niño later this year.

The reality becomes even more apparent: What many thought to be a system saddled with enormous and expensive excess capacity is, in fact, very tight. All it takes is an economic resurgence and the system could be strained as it was strained in the early '90s to the point that brownouts will become common occurrence.

This makes us feel a bit apprehensive because we are actually starting to see some glimmers of hope that the much-awaited economic recovery is in the offing. Statistics recently released by the National Statistics Office show that our June exports is 12.3 percent over that of June last year. Our overall growth in exports for the first six months this year is 4.25 percent.

Much of this growth comes from the expanding Asian markets—the same economies hit by the Asian crisis during the late '90s. And a rebound in our export markets will naturally encourage our entrepreneurs to revive plans to expand their capacities, which many had temporarily shelved when the Sept. 11 terrorist incident shook business confidence of the United States, our biggest trading partner and while our neighbors were recovering from the ill-effects of the Asian crisis.

We should have enough electricity to power our economic take-off. And we ardently hope that history will not repeat itself.

Historical perspective

A stable electricity supply was the legacy the Ramos administration left its successors, one that is now being severely criticized by people who seem to have forgotten how the country and the Filipino people suffered during the years of the power crisis.

Administrations that followed Ramos never had to worry about eight- to 12-hour rotating brownouts daily, never had to explain to foreign investors why the government could not provide uninterrupted power supply, never had to assure a weary and sweaty population that the brownouts would eventually end.

The Ramos administration, in stark contrast to the succeeding regimes, had all these problems to contend with on Day One of his six-year term. After nine coup attempts against President Cory Aquino, the killer earthquake of July 1990, the devastation of Mt. Pinatubo in June 1991 and a series of destructive typhoons, plus three ongoing insurgencies, the economy was flat in June 1992. So were the prospects for the Philippines. National morale was never so low.

Remembering how each Filipino suffered during that time, we can say with confidence that even on hindsight, we would have done what we did.

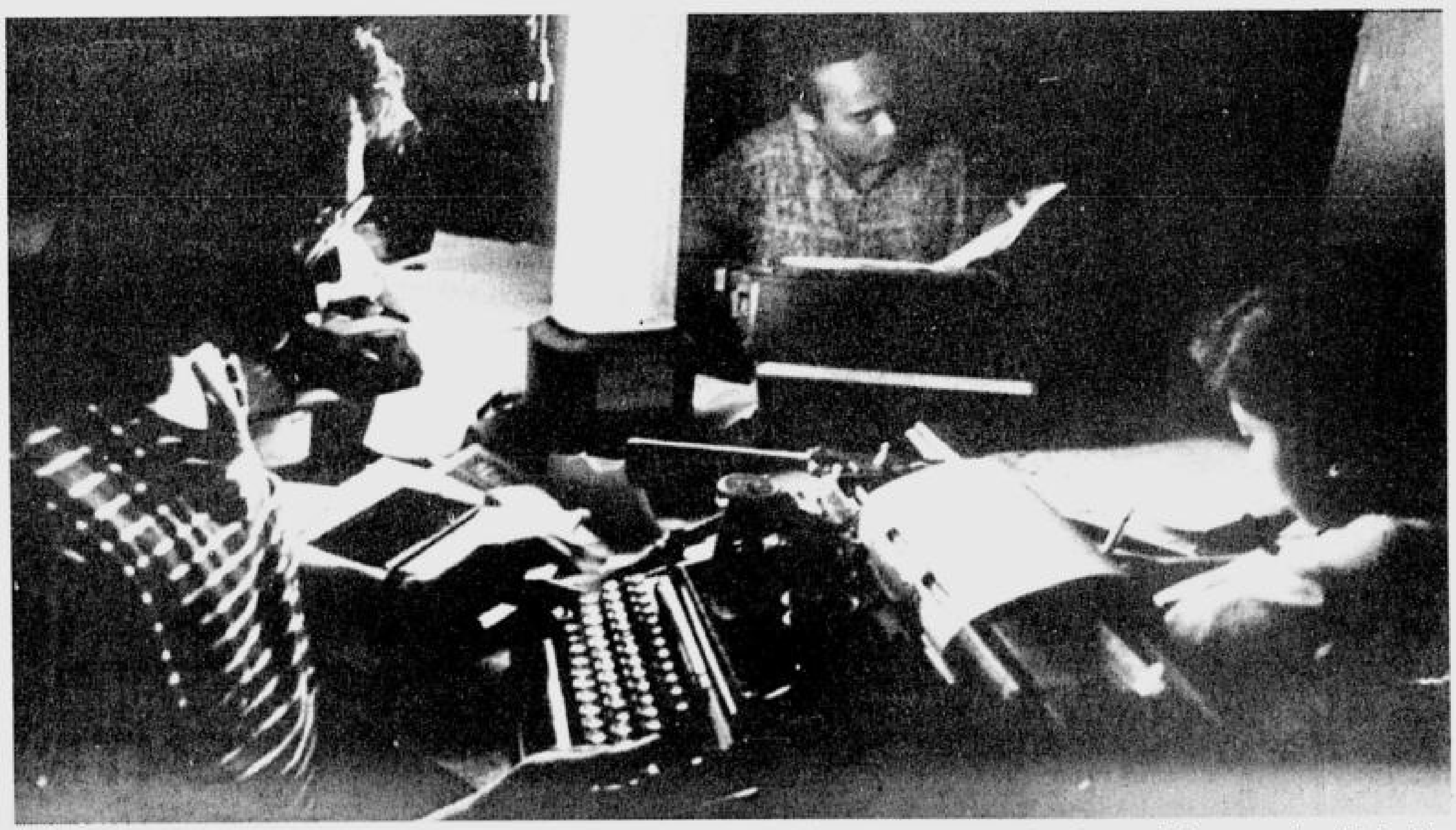
All things being equal, we still would have forged contracts with the now much-persecuted independent power producers.

Crippling blackouts

The power crisis started as sporadic one-hour brownouts in Luzon in the late 1980s. They became longer and more frequent as the power shortage swelled to 1,200 megawatts in early 1993 and the power outages lasted for as long as 10 hours daily.

Mindanao too was not spared from the crippling power shortage that lasted for 16 hours a day as severe drought virtually rendered the hydropower plants in the region useless. The crisis eventually spread to the Visayas.

The power shortage—largely caused by the delay in the construction of power plants that would fill the void caused by the mothballing of the 600-megawatt nuclear power facility as well as the inability of the government to raise capital to finance new power projects—peaked in 1993. Before the year ended, however, the crippling brownouts were a thing in the past.



A stable electricity supply was the legacy the Ramos administration left its successors, one that is now being severely criticized by people who seem to have forgotten how the country and the Filipino people suffered during the years of the power crisis.

These were the days when the IPPs were regarded as the country's messiahs, the saviors who rescued us from perdition.

The crisis period was for us the most challenging test for the Ramos administration. It was, too, our moment of strength.

During the years of the crisis, the National Economic and Development Authority estimated that the country lost as much as P25 billion in revenues and opportunities, representing 1.6 percent of the country's gross national product during that period.

The World Bank estimated losses of some $800 million a year for the government and private industries.

The power shortage exacted a heavy toll on investors' confidence and dragged capital formation—or the lack of it—to record lows. New investments declined to P3.35 billion in 1993, the lowest recorded in history.

More than all these was the reality that millions of Filipinos who put food on the table and send their kids to school lost their jobs as factories closed, trade slowed down and the economy nearly ground to a halt.

In global affairs, the Philippines held the embarrassing distinction of operating in literal darkness. Among our neighbors, we were known as the sick man of Asia.

IPP program

During that time, there was not much choice but to allow the private sector to come in and finance the capital-intensive power projects.

The National Power Corp. was certainly not in that position. With an equity base of no more than 12 percent, there had been very little infusion from the government since its inception and the power firm was funding its operations—and even the construction of power plants—with debts.

To date, Napocor's asset base stood at P980 billion, funded with debt of P876 billion and a "revalued" equity of P104 billion. Government's actual infusion was a measly sum of P23 billion. And P14 billion of this P23 billion was infused during the Ramos administration out of the oil price stabilization fund, or OPSF, and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

The IPPs came upon our invitation, bringing with them over $5 billion in investments and putting up in less than a year vital power generation plants, most of which still energize the country to this day.

Forty-three IPP supply contracts were signed by the government and 22 of these were forged during the Ramos administration.

The quick-gestating power plants not only restored electricity in the country's biggest and most important grid, they were also instrumental in bringing the Philippines back on the radar screens of investors.

After 1993, the Philippines is Asia's "sick man" no more. Our country was bouncing and leaping like a tiger cub, ready and capable of pursuing aggressive global trade and commerce.

As the international community hailed the country's IPP program for being one of the most successful in the world, we too in the Ramos administration were proud for ending swiftly what was once believed would be a drawn out catastrophe.

Asian crisis

Our impressive recovery after the power crisis had emboldened the economic planners during that time to forecast growth numbers that are now being described as ambitious but during that time were achievable and realistic.

The Ramos administration had projected under its medium-term economic development plan that electricity demand would steadily rise by 8 percent yearly that indeed took place for the most part.

Everything would have been on track, but then, the 1997 Asian regional crisis happened. It was a tragedy that struck even our more developed neighbors and though we were hit mildly compared to the rest, we still were not spared.

The 1997 crisis was one we had not anticipated and the continued slowdown following the years leading to the Macapagal administration threw-off further the rosy forecasts we had made under the medium-term plan and the Philippine Energy Plan. The crisis and the years that followed indeed messed-up what was a solid plan under the PEP.

To be continued

Editor's Note: *Francisco Viray was a former energy secretary. Guido Alfredo Delgado was a former president of Napocor.*

REALESTATE

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

A PANORAMIC view of Laguna from Westgrove's clubhouse

Westgrove: the next Ayala Alabang?

By Alex Y. Vergara

A SELF-CONTAINED community far removed from the hustle and bustle of everyday urban living best describes Ayala Westgrove Heights, a 2,500-hectare property with a decidedly Mediterranean feel 30 minutes south of Metro Manila.

Property developer Ayala Land Inc. has followed almost the same formula it employed a generation ago in its efforts to develop what is now known as upscale Ayala Alabang.

The company has gone further south—this time in Silang, Cavite—to replicate its earlier success and eventually lay the foundations of what it envisions as a "new and better Makati"—a highly urbanized community minus the mess Metro Manilans now find themselves in.

Community provider

"We just don't sell land," says Raul Redoblado, ALI media affairs manager. "We provide people with a community as we build our vision for the south."

At the rate lots have been selling at Westgrove (P8,700 per square meter), people seem to share ALI's vision. Almost 85 percent of the property—accessible via the South Luzon Expressway and through the Sta. Rosa exit—has been sold after the company turned over its first parcel of land to a proud owner two years ago.

Seventeen families, including comedian Jon Santos, now call Westgrove their home. Mega Star Sharon Cuneta and husband Sen. Francis Pangilinan are currently building their second home somewhere in Westgrove.

Aside from the usual amenities such as a posh clubhouse, swimming pool, tennis courts, basketball courts and children's play area, ALI has allotted enough space for neighborhood parks, picnic groves, jogging trails and bicycle paths.

Mediterranean theme

In keeping with the sloping terrain that offers an expansive view of nearby Laguna de Bay, ALI decided to adopt a Mediterranean theme. Thus, houses with shingled roofs, wide balconies and wrought-iron gates abound.

Indeed, one of Westgrove's charms is its pristine surroundings. The place is a world away from the blight and squalor so endemic in Metro Manila. Apart from constantly maintaining the village's sewage system, ALI sees to it that garbage is collected daily.

"The air is so clean, we feel like we're living in a resort," says resident Gerry Cruz. "Developers have also put a premium on security. I feel safe walking in the streets at night."

With all but one of their four children married, it wasn't hard for Cruz and wife Redy, long-time residents of Ayala Heights in Quezon City, to make the big move to the south.

WESTGROVE /B6

Realty goes to the web

KEEPING up with the trends in information technology, the real estate business has turned to the Internet, using cyberspace as a new home for territory trading. It is now accessible through e-HOME Expo.

e-HOME Expo is the electronic real estate marketing and distribution channel that brings together real estate buyers, property sellers and brokers under one virtual roof and in one interactive environment.

The community of e-HOME Expo is comprised of 12 Philippine real estate associations, 17,000 licensed real estate practitioners, 17 in-

REALTY /B6

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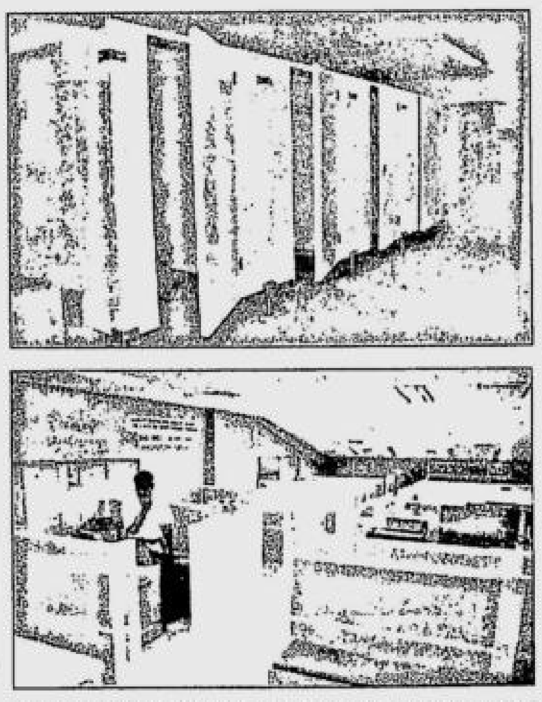

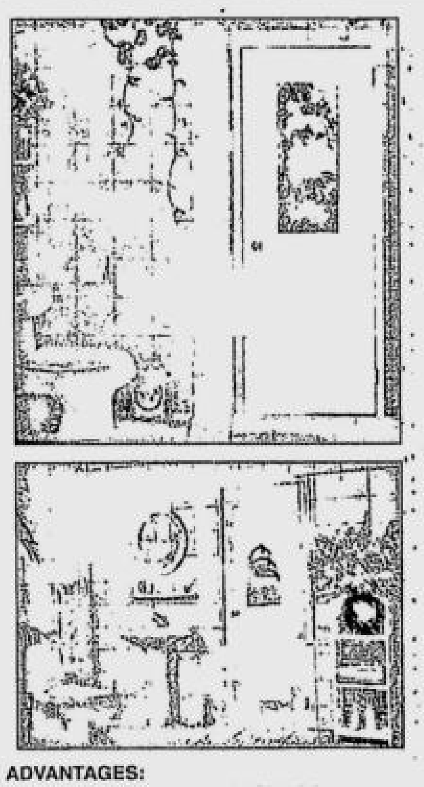

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Housing sector rallied to GMA pledging session

DEFENSOR

SERRANO

DULALIA

OFRECIO

THE CHAMBER of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) yesterday rallied the country's developers to join the forthcoming pledging session with President Macapagal-Arroyo committing the delivery of tens of thousands of housing units in the next few months to boost the government's program for the homeless. The country's housing shortage is estimated at some four million units.

In the past few weeks, Creba has been consulting with developers and the government housing agencies on ongoing, pending or delayed projects to come up with up-to-date information in time for the pledging session with the President.

At the same time, Creba pointed out, the government housing sector should harmonize its policies and procedures with the pressing requirements of the private sector's housing projects for speedy delivery and takeout of housing units to the beneficiaries.

Pledging session

Creba chair Manuel M. Serrano, national president Florentino S. Dulalia Jr. and Secretary Michael T. Defensor, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, said the pledging session will highlight the 2002 Creba-HUDCC national convention in Baguio City on Oct. 9-11. Creba director Florante C. Ofrecio is overall convention chair, while HUDCC secretary general Armando C. de Castro is overall vice chair. President Macapagal is set to be presented with a formal resolution expressing the housing industry's commitment to deliver completed or about to be completed socialized and economic housing units.

Creba officers underscored the multiplier effect of housing development on other industries, especially the manufacturing of basic building materials, the construction sector, and on the various services—professional groups. As a result, thousands of jobs are generated for thousands of skilled personnel and workers and government revenues are increased so more are allotted to social programs for the masses. In view of this, they said, housing is recognized by economists as an effective pump-primer of the national economy.

Working together

"For this alone and at a time like this," Dulalia said, "industry leaders and the government must feel compelled to work together to find solutions to the problems besetting the housing and building industry and thus help propel the economy out of the doldrums and into vibrancy."

Dulalia and Defensor earlier urged other housing industry associations to join the pledging session and make a similar commitment to President Macapagal. She has identified housing as one of her administration's priority programs that respond to the people's basic needs.

Problems

Creba officers are scheduled to meet with housing industry leaders and developers and government agencies' heads on Sept. 11 to expedite the gathering of up-to-date information on housing projects all over the country. Industry developers will be asked to unburden themselves of their problems with government agencies so these could be taken up with the President through the HUDCC to bring about a working private sector-government partnership in the housing program. Through Defensor, President Macapagal had promised to look into the serious problems being encountered by developers in their housing projects.

Housing developers have been complaining, Dulalia said, that their projects are being hampered by certain government policies, requirements and procedures. They cited the stringent guidelines and mechanics of the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig Fund) on the takeout of housing units and of the Department of Agrarian Reform on its repetitive conversion of previously converted non-agricultural lands, and long delay over the issuance of conversion orders.

The developers have also deplored the red tape bugging their projects in complying with the multiple signature procedure of local government units for development permits despite previous national government certifications and approval of the projects.

All these difficulties, Dulalia said, have been discouraging many developers from pushing through with their projects. It is clear that if only government agencies would assist and facilitate housing development, the private housing sector could deliver more housing units, he pointed out.

Dialogues

The three-day national convention at the Baguio Country Club will feature dialogues with Secretaries Hernani A. Braganza of Agrarian Reform, Heherson T. Alvarez of Environment and Natural Resources and Jose D. Lina Jr. of Interior and Local Government.

Housing agency heads will grace the workshops. They are Pag-Ibig Fund president Romero FS Quimbo, GSIS president and general manager Winston F. Garcia, Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board Commissioner Roque A. Magno, Home Insurance and Guaranty Corp. president Gonzalo A. Bongolan, National Home Mortgage Financing Corp. president Angelo T. Salud and National Housing Authority general manager Edgardo D. Pamintuan.

Giving updates on Congress' housing program proposals are Sen. Manuel B. Villar Jr., Rep. Prospero C. Nograles (lst district, Davao City), committee on housing chair; and Rep. Eduardo C. Zialcita (Parañaque City), principal author of House Bill 1300, the proposed Omnibus Housing and Urban Development Act.

CONSTRUCTSCOPE

First store in RP opens

THE FIRST store of Handyman's Do-It-Best in the country located at Robinsons Starmills in San Fernando, Pampanga, was recently inaugurated.

Present during the opening were Robina Gokongwei-Pe of Robinsons Handyman Inc., Dong Parilla of Tamson's Enterprises, Norman Dy of NKD International, Pastor Love, Willy Co, Tess Vasay and Ronnie Ong of RHI, Henry Ching of Streamline Blinds and Pinky Ong Chan of Best Quality Metal.

The event was marked by a big three-day opening sale where customers enjoyed discounts of up to 50 percent. Handyman's Do-It-Best, a collaboration between US-based Do-It-Best Corp. and Robinsons Handyman, offers the ultimate in shopping convenience at the best prices.

RHI, a member of the Robinsons Retail Group, is a leader in the home improvement sector. Do-It-Best, one of America's biggest in the same industry, has 4,400 members in 43 countries who are given access to over 70,000 products. Opening this month is Handyman's Do-It-Best in Robinsons Metro East.

Now accessible at malls

MODULAR housing primary provider Vazbuilt marks another milestone with the setting up of booths in the country's leading mall chain.

One booth can be found at the 5th level of SM Megamall A, while another one will be set up this month at the SM Southmall.

"The idea behind our presence in the malls is to make our services more accessible to the people," said Gary Vazquez, Vazbuilt CEO.

"With these booths, anybody can come to us to make his dream home come true," Vazquez added. The Vazbuilt booths, he also said, are manned by housing professionals who are willing to give advice on any housing concern—from house design to the appropriate financing schemes.

Vazbuilt is also known for its one-stop shop where it handles house construction from beginning to end. "And the moment our client signs the contract, his house is as good as built. No unforeseen raising of prices."

Aside from these, Vazbuilt has a huge database of designs like the affordable V-Series and the more upscale Designer Series by eminent architects like Palafox, Recio + Casas and Valdez.

Legal aspect of real estate

TWO important subjects in real estate business and practice will be conducted by the Urban Institute of Real Estate on Sept. 14, from 1:30 to 6 p.m. at the second floor, Joni's Bakeshop, Pasay Road corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

To be taken up at 1:30-3:30 p.m. is "Legal Aspect of Sale, Mortgage and Lease," which covers contract of sale, options, characteristics of mortgages, kinds of mortgages, mortgage without marital consent, foreclosure, redemption, assignment of lease and sublease, issues on improvements introduced by the lessee, sale of leased properties, and rent control law. After the break, to be taken up at 4-6 p.m. is "Contract Documentation and Registration," which covers the important provisions for contract of agency, sale, lease and mortgage and others, sample of legal forms, importance of notarization, the Torrens system of land registration, purpose of registration, adverse claims, registration requirements and functions of the register of deeds. An open forum and consultation will follow after every lecture.

For details and inquiries, Urban Institute may be reached at 681-0928 or at e-mail urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

Gearing for ISO accreditation

PREMIER triple A construction firm L&M Maxco Co. unveiled its quality manual for compliance with the requirements set for securing ISO accreditation.

Architect Pete Dublon, VP for operations and marketing, said the firm has already initiated a training series for the technical and administrative teams to enhance standards and procedures already in place.

As a multinational company partly owned by the L&M Investment Group of Singapore, L&M Maxco has strict adherence to global standards of safety and technical excellence. This is evident in the firm's delivered projects.

Only on its eighth year of operations, L&M Maxco has a list of accomplishments already considered landmarks and an ISO accreditation would be a fitting recognition of the title "quality contractor" and not just another triple A or large contractor.

MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING
Nampap (National Master Plumbers Association of the Philippines Inc.) president Alberto T. Cabael signs a memorandum of understanding with Emerald Vinyl Corp., major sponsor of the 67th Nampap anniversary and national convention on Nov. 19-20 at the Manila Midtown Hotel. Also shown are Joel Camacho of the Account Management Development Group of Emerald uPVC Pipes and Fittings and engineer Jason Magos, convention chair.

THE VILLAGE lagoon

Westgrove: the next Ayala Alabang?

From page B5

After all, he says, Westgrove is just an hour's drive from Makati and less than 30 minutes from the family-owned pharmaceutical firm in Canlubang, Laguna.

"We would have moved earlier had Ayala been here earlier," says Cruz. Yes, such is the family's faith in ALI. "Its track record of developing communities and sustaining them speaks for itself."

Thanks to underground power conduits, no electric wires mar the community's tree-lined streets. Water is drawn from a deep well and pumped to a huge reservoir. Residents need not go to Alabang for their necessities. They can either buy them from an old-fashioned wet market outside the village or a nearby Rustan's Superstore.

"People out to build their second and third homes have been drawn to this place," says Redoblado. "A good number, however, have built or are building their first homes." Not a few lot owners, of course, relish the thought that Westgrove would someday be the next Ayala Alabang.

Having been devoted to so-called early nesters, the community's fourth phase hosts Kids Grove, a clubhouse designed for young ones with adequate amenities such as an interactive play area, wading pools, junior basketball court and skating rink designed for children.

Near good schools

Still, one of Westgrove's biggest come-ons is its proximity to good schools such as De La Salle, Brent, Xavier, Don Bosco and the University of Asia and the Pacific. In fact, St. Scholastica's College, one of the country's most prestigious schools, has recently opened its first branch in the south right inside Westgrove.

ST. Scholastica's College-Westgrove

Since ALI shares St. Scholastica's vision of producing upright and involved Filipino women, the company has donated six hectares of land to the school. Authorities lost no time constructing a four-story building that now houses close to 200 students in grade school, high school and college.

Benedictine nuns, led by Sr. Edna Quiambao, also run St. Scholastica's College (Westgrove). Aside from adhering to high standards set in Manila, the nuns provide the school with faculty and courses.

"The people at Ayala have been asking us to set up a branch here as early as 1986," says Sister Edna. "We welcomed the offer, but we were short of teachers that time."

ALI has now begun focusing its energies developing Greenville Estate, an adjacent property that's touted to become the Forbes Park of the south.

Realty goes to the web

From page B5

dustry-related government agencies, 2.1 million land titles changing hands, 3 million Internet users and 5.7 million Filipinos overseas.

At e-HOME Expo, any prime asset is now just a click away. e-HOME Expo provides an Internet database service with a comprehensive listing of properties available in the market throughout the Philippines.

The search tool is extensive, with a coverage of available assets from commercial, residential, industrial, farm lots, leisure parks, country club and golf estate, agricultural and memorial lots that are for sale, swap, rent or lease. Buyers and brokers can yield a myriad of information on available property. Sellers can also post their property.

Using the Internet technology, e-HOME Expo is a clearinghouse where transactions and offers can be registered online. It is an effective marketing tool that sells all kinds of real estate. Just as a great degree of information can be retrieved, property listings may be presented in many ways—through photos, vicinity maps or lot plans. A virtual tour can even be produced for a more creative presentation, and all property stay listed until sold.

e-HOME Expo is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It keeps abreast with the constant and continuous expansion to global proportions of the market.

Project performance evaluation, in relation to sales, cash flow, delinquencies, reservations and existing inventory, is now realized with speed, ease and precision. Reports and forms, which are produced online and submitted via e-mail, eliminate discrepancies. e-HOME Expo is specifically designed for the Internet environment and is a total management tool. Moreover, e-HOME Expo provides links to other property services sites of real estate brokers, appraisers, consultants, developers, insurance brokers, planners and builders.

Major sponsors of the event are Fil-Estate Group of Companies and Ledesco Development Corp. Minor sponsor is Moldex.

On Sept. 13-15, e-HOME Expo Online Marketing will be presented at Hall 2, Level 5 of Megamall at Mandaluyong City. The exhibit is presented by the Pareb Rizal Board of Realtors Inc. in cooperation with the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council.

To know more about e-HOME Expo, log on to www.e-HOMEexpo.com.ph and find out how e-HOME Expo can build a better world for the real estate community.

‘Golf amid nature’s haven’

LEGENDARY golf course architect Robert Trent Jones Jr. is an ardent lover of golf and of nature. His designs reflect this core belief that preserving the natural beauty of the site contributes to the pleasure of the golfing experience. With a distinguished career that spans three decades, six continents and 39 countries, his name has been synonymous with the ultimate in golf design.

Little wonder that his 18-hole golf course takes pride of place in Ayala Land and Greenfield Development Corp’s latest residential project, Ayala Greenfield Estates, a 500-hectare community near Mt. Makiling with a breathtaking view of Laguna, Tagaytay and Batangas, and set amid tree groves and man-made gardens. To be developed as an all-weather golf course, it will be open for play every day no matter what the climate is.

“Golf is part of the active lifestyle that Ayala Greenfield stands for and we chose Robert Trent Jones Jr. because he represents the same kind of quality, level of expertise and strong environmental commitment that Ayala Land has always been known for,” explains Jun Bisnar, Ayala Land Inc.’s assistant vice president for Land Community and Development Group.

Environmental design

Indeed, Robert Trent Jones Jr. has been called the “father of environmental golf course design” for creating golf courses that harmonize with their surroundings. In Hawaii, for instance, he has designed golf courses that not only enhance the land’s beauty but also serve as sanctuaries for endangered birds.

In his past designs, Jones has worked on the “restoration of sand dunes and reestablishment of native plants at Spanish Bay, preservation of Mayan temples at Cancun, and of course, protection of ancient burial sites and temples in Hawaii.” It is this concern for nature and cultural legacies that he will incorporate into the Ayala Greenfield golf course development.

Greatest challenge

For Ayala Greenfield, the Jones II Group’s greatest challenge was the hill around which the course has been designed. “The boundaries that we had to work with are nontraditional,” explains Mike Kahler, Trent Jones II's director for Asian operations, “Instead of leveling sections of the hill to provide the necessary room to lay out the course, we decided to design the course around it.” In the end, Kahler said the hill will prove to be a design advantage by shielding the course from the high winds and providing a dramatic backdrop for both sight lines and shadow lines.

“In routing the golf course, no two consecutive holes play in the same direction or in quite the same manner, thus providing maximum variety in strategy, incorporating sun angles and wind direction with course contours reflecting the horizon lines surrounding the site, further connecting the course to the local environment.” Kahler continues.

It was also during the 1970s that the younger Trent Jones parted from his father professionally. He wanted to design courses that are more flexible and called for thoughtful, accurate shot-making skills to test the very best golf professionals while at the same time making the course enjoyable for the average golfer. Jones “always believes that while our courses should be challenging enough for professional players, they should also be accessible to average players.”

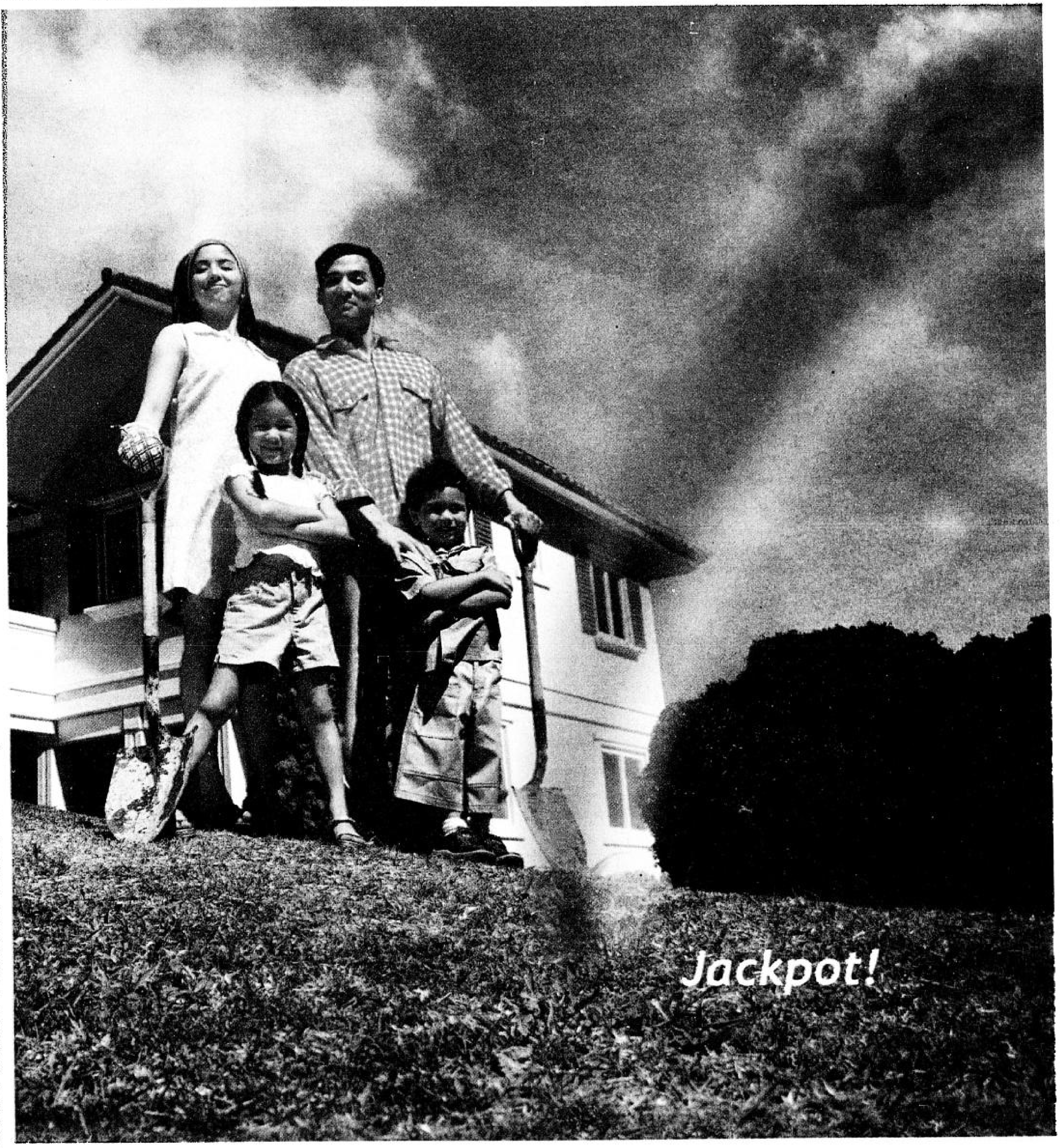
Robert Trent Jones II courses have always been known for both their visual and cerebral qualities, challenging both your physical and intellectual skills as a golfer. To master his newest creation at Ayala Greenfield Estates will require confident shot-making, as well as, if not of even greater importance, concise decision-making.

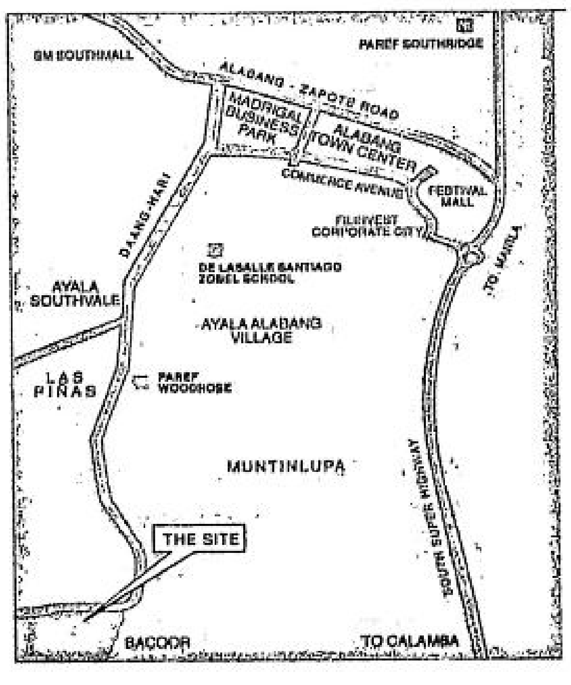
Golf course share

Ayala Greenfield Estates lot owners will have a share in the Jones-designed golf course. With an activation fee, one can enjoy the all-weather fairways of the championship golf course. While you hit the greens, your family can relax at the Golf and Leisure Club, which includes a spa and wellness center, a badminton court, a bowling alley as well as food and beverage facilities. The golf-residential subdivision also features a Locsin-desinged village clubhouse that beautifully echoes the mountain form and other recreational amenities that look out over the awe-inspiring Mt. Makiling and Laguna de Bay.

Meanwhile, Ayala Greenfield Estates property owners and prospective clients are eagerly anticipating the construction of the 6,500-yard, full-length golf course. Kahler reveals that the design of the course is well underway. “We have even identified our signature hole, which shall have dramatic shaping that reflects its backdrop of chiseled rock and affords spectacular sunset view.”

THIS represents the vision of Ayala Greenfield Estates’ golf course





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Invitation for Bids

Philippines
Local Government and Finance Development Project
Supply and Delivery of Heavy Equipment
SP22-02
Loan No. 4446 PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in various currencies towards the cost of the Local Government Finance and Development Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the supply and delivery of heavy equipment.
2. The Municipal Government of Lumbatan, Lanao del Sur now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the procurement of one (1) unit brand new Wheel Loader with 2.50 cu.m. bucket capacity and 160HP (Gross) Output.
3. Bidding will be conducted through the National competitive bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.

   Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from MBAC Office and inspect the bidding documents at Max Suniel Extension, Carmen Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental Tel. Nos. (088) 723665/728971 on September 13 - October 23, 2002.
4. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of two thousand pesos (P2,000.00). The method of payment will be in cash or manager's check. The document will be sent by courier service.
5. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before October 23, 2002 at 10:00 A.M. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of three percent (3%) of the bid amount in a form of cash, certified check, bank guarantee, letter of credit or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below on October 23, 2002, 10:00 A.M.

   MAYOR SULTAN EDRIS L. LAO
   Chairman MBAC
   c/o Middleton Apartelle
   Max Suniel Extension, Carmen
   Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental
   Tel. Nos. (088) 723665 / 728971
   (088) 8584839 / 8582483
   Fax Nos. (08822) 723665 / 8584839
   Cel Nos. 0917-9527145 / 0919-4925094
6. A pre-bid conference will be held at the above stated address on October 9, 2002, at 10:00 A.M.

(Sgd.) HON. EDRIS L. LAO
Mayor/MBAC Chairman

(PDI--Sept. 10, 2002)

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of PEDRO O. TADIOS who has been missing since March 1994 was extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Doc# 482, Page# 96, Book# VIII series of 2002 of notary public LEOPOLDO ULANDAY of Quezon City.
(PDI-Sept. 10, 17 & 24, 2002)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.)

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
G/F MWSI Bldg., MWSS Complex
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Maynilad Water Services, Inc. is inviting all interested bidders to undertake the supply and delivery of various sizes of ***Universal Adaptor and Coupling*** as shown below, as per MWSI Standard Specification:

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3	144 pcs.	Adaptor	DI	300mm	FE/MJ
4	864 pcs.	Coupling	DI	100mm	MJ/MJ
5	960 pcs.	Coupling	DI	150mm	MJ/MJ
6	738 pcs.	Adaptor	DI	150mm	FE/MJ
7	372 pcs.	Adaptor	DI	150mm	FE/MJ
8	408 pcs.	Adaptor	DI	75mm	FE/MJ
9	708 pcs.	Adaptor	DI	100mm	FE/MJ
10	372 pcs.	Coupling	DI	200mm	MJ/MJ
11	264 pcs.	Coupling	DI	250mm	MJ/MJ
12	205 pcs.	Coupling	DI	300mm	MJ/MJ
13	120 pcs.	Coupling	DI	150mm	MJ/MJ
14	144 pcs.	Coupling	DI	200mm	MJ/MJ
15	528 pcs.	Coupling	DI	75mm	MJ/MJ

Note: Universal fittings should adapt to at least two (2) pipe types of the same nominal internal diameters.

As per MWSI Technical Specifications and Terms and Conditions.

The complete bid documents can be secured at the Purchasing Department, Basement, Eng'g. Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos Only (P 1,000.00) in the form of Cash or Manager's Check payable to Maynilad Water Services, Inc.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of 2% of the total bid amount.

A pre-bid conference is scheduled on September 23, 2002, 10:00 AM at Corporate Logistics Conference Room, Basement, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City.

Bid proposal shall be submitted at the **Purchasing Department on or before 3:00 PM of September 30, 2002 (Monday).**

MWSI reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any and all informalities therein, and accept the bid it deems most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) **IGNACIO B. GIMENEZ**
AVP-Corporate Logistics

(PDI--Sept. 10 & 11, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION
EAGLE CREST VILLAS
Bakakeng Road, Baguio City

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the following lots at Eagle Crest Villas located at Bakakeng Road, Baguio City are acquired assets of the Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC). Thus, all concerned buyers with previous transactions with the Vive Eagle Land, Inc. (VIVE)/First La Paloma Properties (FLPP) are advised to visit HGC at the 2nd Flr. Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City or HGC's Baguio Regional Office located at 2nd Floor, Insular Life Bldg. Abanao Extension Road, Baguio City to present their sales documents, official receipts and other proofs of payment made to VIVE or FLPP and manifest their intention to pursue or cancel the purchase of the following lots:

PHASE	BLK. NO.	LOT NOS.
I	2 A	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11 & 15, 17 to 24, 27, 28 & 36
	7	9 to 13, 16 to 19, 20 to 30 & 18
	8	6, 17 to 20, 22 & 23
II	1	1A to 13A, 1B to 13B, 14 to 17 & 18A to 18O
	3	2 (2A & 2B)
	4	2, 3 & 4
	5	3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 & 12 to 20
	6	3, 5 to 11 & 13 to 24
	7	3, 15C & 16A
III	2	16 to 22
	3	2 to 20
	4	1 to 31
	5	1 to 12
	6	1 to 7 & 9 to 13
	7	3 to 22
	8	14
	9	19 & 21
	10	1 to 24
	11	2, 3 (1A to 6A), 4 to 9, 11, 17 to 19 & 30 to 32
	12	13
	13	1, 2, 7, 10 & 12 to 14

If the concerned buyers fail to see us and present the required documents within fifteen (15) days from date of this publication, HGC shall declare the above properties open for sale to other interested parties.

For more inquiries, please contact Gloria C. Concepcion or Nemia Mabulay at Tel. No. 897-3217.

(Sgd.) CORAZON N. ABANGAN
Vice President
Project Management & Acquired Assets Disposition Group

(PDI - Sept 3 & 10, 2002)

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Peacefully joined our Lord on Sept. 1, 2002

His loving wife Valeriana; children Jun & Evelyn, [illegible] & Nina, Ollie & Ariel, Danny, Elmer & Alice, Cheng & [illegible], [illegible] & [illegible], [illegible], Amado, Monching, Cesar (†) & [illegible], [illegible] & [illegible] grandchildren [illegible] pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sept. 11, 2002 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

> *"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*
> Matthew 11:28

LEONORA A. BALBIDO

December 28, 1929 - September 8, 2002

*Peacefully joined her husband **Ricardo A. Balbido, Sr.** (†) in our Lord's loving embrace at the age of 73.*

She is survived by her children **Jun & Josie, Hazel, Boy & Tina, Dodo & Suzie, Edna & Tata** (†), **Lolong & Ging** and grandchildren.

Her body lies in state at Sta. Susana & St. Jerome Church, Alabang Town Center until tomorrow, September 10, 2002.

Her remains will be flown to Digos, Davao City, Davao del Sur on Wednesday, September 11, 2002. Interment will be on Saturday, September 14, 2002 at Digos Public Cemetery.

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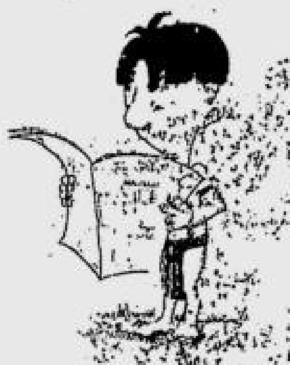

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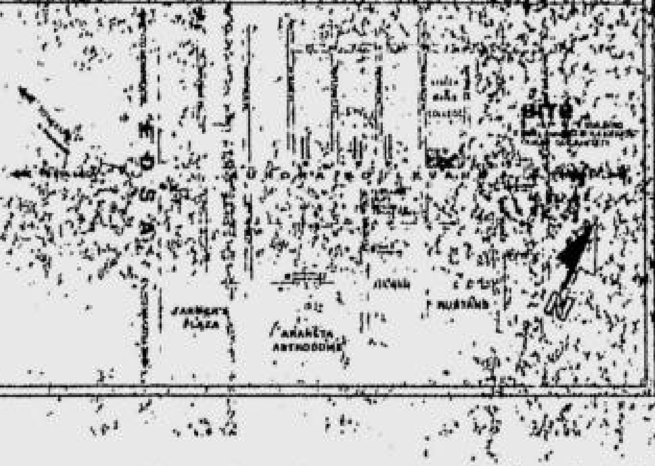

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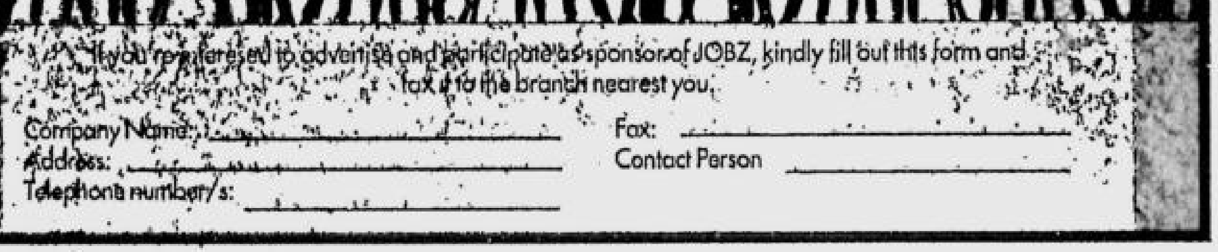

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Photographers laud success of Kodak ProCard seminar

CLOSE to 200 amateur and professional photographers participated in the second in a series of seminars sponsored by the "Kodak ProCard Network Program"—a nationwide membership support system for photographers initiated by Kodak Professional, a division of Eastman Kodak, held recently at the Dusit Hotel Nikko.

Photographers who attended and joined the ProCard program last month will still be able to join the Digital Imaging slated this September. The ProCard Network Program will also be launched in Cebu City by October.

The second in a series of seminars focused on "Wedding Photography", and was supervised by professional photographer Patrick Uy, a favorite in wedding ceremonies. His works were also displayed during the event.

"Getting a wedding portrait set-up done in at least 10 minutes is possible," explained Patrick Uy. "To make this happen, a week before the wedding, have a pre-production meeting and an ocular inspection of the venue with the client. This also develops a good relationship between the photographer and client, and makes everybody feel and work well with each other."

Uy is very much appreciative of Kodak's efforts to elevate and improve the craft of photographers like him. A Kodak Professional user himself, he says that this is a very good move from Kodak and looks forward to the program's continued success.

Ace photographer Wig Tysman noted that Kodak Professional products have always been "the best product ever invented and 90 percent of the products I use have always been Kodak Professional."

According to Rudy Fontanilla, knows as the "jetsetter wedding photographer", "It is excellent that a good company like Kodak comes up with programs like these, where it shows how it takes good care of photographers. Thus, providing them with what they would need for their profession."

"The ProCard program is a big help to the local photography industry, particularly to those who are no longer in contact with fellow shutter-buffs," said Rey Veloiria, professional photographer, "It also reunited some of us who rarely see each other because of busy schedules."

"We are grateful for this support program launched by Kodak Professional because this is a big help to our profession," pointed Benjie Rivera, Apsop president.

"The program and the seminar are essential to new photographers, though it also served as a refresher's course to the veterans as well. The photography industry welcomes the ProCard program and is even looking forward to more seminars that will help the cubs in the industry," added Jun Barrameda.

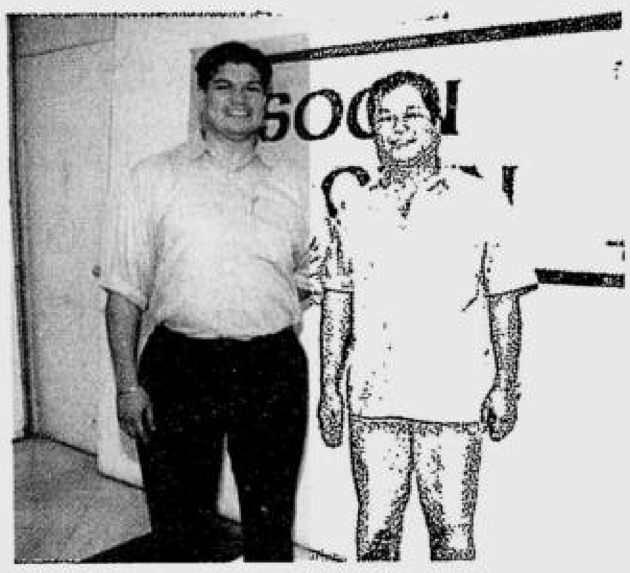
Launched this June, the Kodak ProCard Network Program was kicked off with a seminar focused on Portraiture Training. More than 100 photographers attended the launch.

According to Diana Pilapil, product and channel manager, the ProCard Network Program gives photographers a special identity and boosts their status in the photographic community. By owning an official ProCard, photographers not only have access to free trainings and seminars conducted by Kodak Professional, but also get relevant information on what's new with Kodak products and services. They will also get product trial privileges as well as the chance to participate in special promotions, contests, and discount packages.

Joining the ProCard Network Program is absolutely free. For more information, call Lui Mauban or Grace Monteiro at 776-1040, 821-6396, 824-5501, or fax 821-6387 or e-mail nouveau@info.com.ph.

TOTAL SCHOLARSHIP DRAW

TotalFinaElf Philippines (Total), carrier of TotalGaz LPG, announced the lucky winners of the initial draw of its Abot Pangarap Scholarship Promo. Esperanza G. Doconila of Mandaluyong bagged the bedroom and appliance showcase, which includes a full-size bed, television, VCD, air conditioner and other appliances. Total also distributed 250 11-kg TotalGaz to other winners. Shown, from left, are Norberto Chan of NGC Gas, a TotalGaz dealer, Ferdinand de los Reyes of East King, another TotalGaz dealer, Department of Trade and Industry representative Mina Forteza, and marketing representatives Raymond Villaraza and Ed Castro from Superkalan, a Total subsidiary marketing the TotalGaz brand. The scholarship promo ran until Aug. 31.



SUPER BOWL OF CHINA AT G4

Super Bowl of China, the leader in casual dining, will soon open its doors at the 2nd level of Glorietta IV. Shown is Super Bowl general manager Martin Carrion (left) with Chef Law Hung Sau visiting the site of the new branch. Super Bowl Glorietta will offer the same generous servings of excellent Chinese dishes in a cozy, trendy setting that guests have come to love since the restaurant opened at the Mega Strip in SM Megamall and Jupiter Street in Bel-Air, Makati City. It will be the biggest among the three, with a seating capacity of 187. Friendly and well-trained staff will be on hand to see the guests' needs.

GE among top 5 global brands

INTERBRAND Corp. and BusinessWeek released the names of this year's top 100 brands worldwide. General Electric (GE) made it to the prestigious top 10 brands, placing fourth in overall ranking, with Coca-Cola, Microsoft and IBM occupying the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd posts respectively. GE is the only electrical appliance brand that made it to the Top 10 global brands.

Roughly half of the 100 global brands that Interbrand and BusinessWeek ranked this year fell in value compared to a year ago. But GE was able to defend and retain its position and value.

The top 100 brands were selected according to two criteria: They had to be global in nature, deriving 20 percent or more of sales from outside their home country. They also had to have publicly available marketing and financial data to base the valuation. Valuation of the brands is based on how much they are likely to earn in the future with projected profits discounted to their present value.

To start the valuation process, Interbrand and BusinessWeek followed a step-by-step course in analyzing figures and data. It sought the help of analysts from J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. to identify tangible assets and intangible factors affecting a brand's value. To calculate the brand's strength, Interbrand considered the brand's market leadership, its stability and its ability to cross geographical and cultural borders. The results of the process produced a net present value for each of the 100 brands. Interbrand and BusinessWeek believe the figures they generated come closest to representing the true economic value of an array of forces that make up a brand.

Other brands that made it to the top 10 include Intel (5th), Nokia (6th), Disney (7th), McDonald's (8th), Marlboro (9th) and Mercedes (10th).

Aside from being this year's Top 4 Global Brand, GE has been awarded America's Most Preferred Appliance Brand; Reader's Digest Platinum SuperBrand for refrigerators; America's Most Admired Company, top choice of builders and re-modelers across the United States, and Top White Line Appliance Brand in several episodes of the BPI Cards Appliance Exhibit.

GE Appliances are distributed in the Philippines by CYA Industries with main office and service center located at 103 Mercedes Avenue, Barangay San Miguel, Pasig City. For inquiries, call 631-8282 or 887-0075.

FDAP DESIGNERS BACK AT THE CENTURY

On Sept. 10, members of the Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines (FDAP), led by president Ole Morabe, and the Century Park Hotel's general manager Bobby Carpio will play host to 'The Century in Fashion, Year II'. After a successful year, FDAP presents its latest and never-before-seen collections. The fashion extravaganza will run at the Century Park Atrium Lounge every Tuesday at 7 p.m. from Sept. 10 to Oct. 29. Cocktails will be served from 6 to 9 p.m. For table reservations, call 528-8888 local 5837 or 5925, 5851 or 528-5907. Shown are Richard Papa, Edgar Madamba, Edgar San Diego and Lito Perez.

Deutsche Motorgerate joins Home & Garden exhibition

A QUEZON City firm engaged in the marketing and exclusive distribution of Stihl chainsaw power tools and Gardena garden equipment and accessories has confirmed its participation in Home & Garden Asia 2002. The firm is Deutsche Motorgerate.

The trade-consumer show, slated from Sept. 19 to 21 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila (WTCMM), is an international exhibition on home and garden products with leading manufacturers and suppliers of the industry exhibiting their products under one roof.

kThe main attraction of the show is a special setting where various models of the different parts of the home will be displayed, showcasing various products of the exhibitors.

Another attraction of the show will be a typical American home to be put up by the US Embassy Commercial Service. The house will be built from products of US exhibitors.

The US Commercial Service is one of the supporters of Home & Garden Asia 2002, which is also supported by the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, Philippine Horticultural Society, Philippine Bonsai Society and Philippine Orchid Society.

Media sponsors include Joey 92.3 Rhythms FM and 94.7 DWLL, The Mellow Touch.

Home & Garden Asia 2002 is organized by H&G International, a division of Leverage International.

Farewell concert for Maria Cafra bassist Fabunan this Friday

MOST 'Martial Law Babies' of the '70s will remember the Maria Cafra Band, one of the early Pinoy rock groups which gave us well-remembered hits such as "Estranghero", "Kumusta Mga Kaibigan", "Hatsing-Hatsing", "Karanasan", and a charged version of "Exodus" complete with guitars burning.

On June 12 this year, Jun Fabunan, the group's bassist, died while performing on stage, of heart attack. He was then a guitarist of the Powerjam Band, with Albert Hufano on bass. They were backing up Drs Cecile Catapang, Arlene Bongosia, and Angelo Manila of St. Luke's Medical Center.

On Sept. 13, his friends and family will hold a farewell tribute concert for Jun Fabunan at the Rembrandt Hotel. Ricky Samson hosts the tribute. Guests will be Powerjam Band with Albert Hufano on bass, Lito Vasquez on the guitar, Luz Medalla on the keyboard, Mel "73W" Millete at the drums, Lito Atienza on the rhythm, and Nante Reyes on vocals. Catapang and Bengosia will also be on hand to render more songs. Snaffu Rigor, an old friend of Jun during their recording days at Jem and Telesis, will also guest.

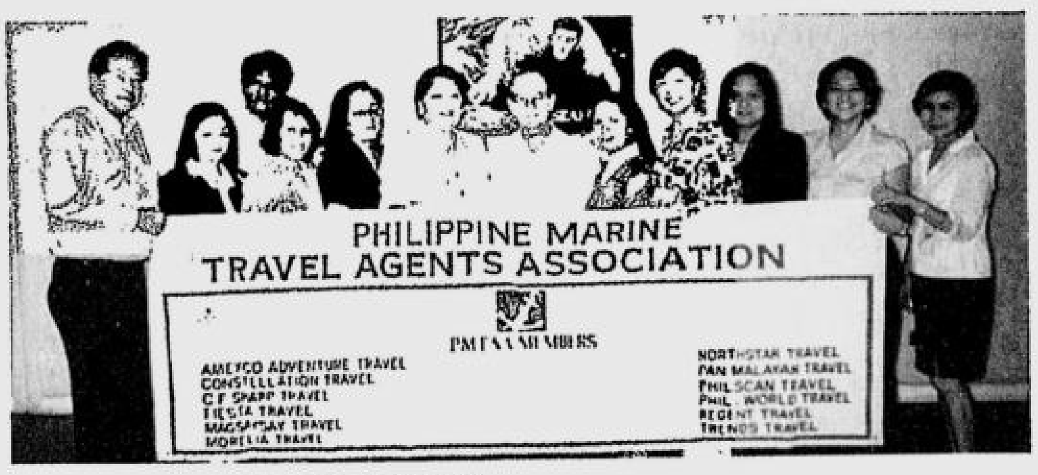
Maria Cafra songs will also be played. This time, Jun's son Dennis Glenn will be at the guitar. Jun's nephew and godson Mark Decina will handle bass, and the original drummer of Maria Cafra Rolly Averilla will play with the young musicians.

Tickets will be available at the gate, or call Yen Decena at 829-6045 or 0917-8387213.

The farewell tribute concert for Jun is presented by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

The Landmark Forum Sept. 13

THE LANDMARK Forum, one of the largest and most relevant diverse education programs in the world, is set to hold a series of seminars on Sept. 13, 14, 15 and in the evening of Sept. 17 at the RCBC Plaza in Makati. Widely acclaimed personal development program The Landmark Forum is specifically designed to bring about positive and permanent shifts in the quality of people's lives. Among the noted graduates of The Landmark Forum include Academy Award winning composer Alan Menken, our own Corazon Alma de Leon, former Civil Service Commissioner, and Sr. Gertrude Borres, dean of the Assumption College. With headquarters in San Francisco, it was first brought to the Philippines this May. For more information, call the Landmark Education Program at 851-8500, or get in touch with Aljon Perreras at 0917-6679774, Evelyn Cu-unjieng at 722-4573 and Chiqui Veneracion at 0918-9104388 or log on to www.iLovePossibility.info.

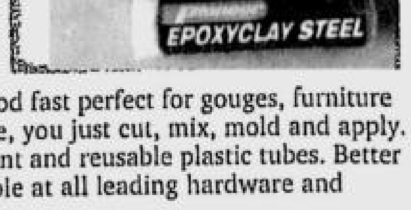


PMTAA'S 1ST GOLF TOURNEY

The Philippine Marine Travel Agents Association (PMTAA) is proud to announce its 1st Marine Travel Golf Tournament on Sept. 10 at Eagle Ridge Golf & Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite. Through this activity, PMTAA hopes to promote closer ties and cooperation with its industry partners and stakeholders towards the realization of its vision and mission. This tournament is just one of the series of activities that the association hopes to undertake in campaigning for a stronger and more competitive marine travel business in the country. Major airline companies led by national carrier Philippine Airlines and the two major CRS companies in the country—Galileo and Abacus Philippines—are tournament co-sponsors. The association has chosen the Apostleship of the Sea as the beneficiary of this activity. Shown are PMTAA directors with Fr. Sabin of AOS (center), together with major sponsors PAL (represented by Jojo Baena), Galileo Philippines (with Roxy Palanca), and Nina Cerrada of Abacus Philippines.

Product FILES

The Pioneer Epoxyclay solution



PIONEER Epoxyclay is the newest hand-moldable adhesive/sealant solution to every household repair. Designed to meet every repair need, it comes in three variants: Pioneer Epoxyclay Aqua which works fast even under water and is best for leaking pipes, gaskets, boat holes, water tanks, and swimming pools; Pioneer Epoxyclay Steel which rebuilds metal fast like nuts and bolts, auto bodies, and engine parts; Pioneer Epoxyclay Wood which restores wood fast perfect for gouges, furniture parts, scratches, and cracks. And it's so easy to use, you just cut, mix, mold and apply. No mess, no spillage because it comes in convenient and reusable plastic tubes. Better be ready, get your own Pioneer Epoxyclay available at all leading hardware and department stores nationwide.

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

ASP now accepts entries for 2002 Aids Media Awards

THE AIDS Society of the Philippines (ASP) is now accepting entries for the "2002 Aids Media Awards," an annual event that gives due recognition to the mass media for its contribution in educating the public about HIV/Aids. This was announced by Dr. Dominic Garcia, program manager of ASP, a non-stock, non-profit organization which focuses its efforts on HIV/Aids prevention.

According to Garcia, entries may focus on the following topics: diagnosis and treatment; epidemiology; economic impact; moral issues; policy/legal issues (RA 8504); preventive measures; research finding; and social impact. There are four media categories: TV news, news feature in print, news feature in radio, cartoon strip and editorial.

Entries must be contained inside a sealed envelope with the duly filled application form (application forms are available at the ASP office or at any Philippine Information Agency regional office). Interested parties may send as many entries in a chosen category. Only one grand winner per category will be chosen. Applications must be received not later than Oct. 4. Application forms, together with the entry materials and a short description of the sender should be sent to the Aids Society of the Philippines, 4th floor Room 401, Doña Felisa Syjuco Building, 1212 Remedios Street, Malate, Manila.

Now on its 4th year, the Aids Media Awards is dubbed as an information, education and communication strategy aimed at the public. Judges' criteria are based on the contest guidelines given for the participants. For content, entries must be accurate, gender sensitive, and understandable to the public. For presentation, they must be creative and project a positive attitude towards persons living with HIV/Aids. For impact, they must create awareness, encourage HIV/Aids advocacy, and promote understanding and sexual responsibility.

The major prize is an all expense study tour to Thailand plus an opportunity to visit different partner non-government organization (NGOs) and government organizations with HIV/Aids media programs, plus pocket money worth $500. Winning entries will be announced on Dec. 1, in time for the global commemoration of World Aids Day.

The Aids Society of the Philippines has tapped the media as a powerful sector and instrument for the transfer of limitless information and delivery of urgent messages to large numbers of people and influences their attitudes about issues that affect their daily life.

"Once again, we're inviting our partners in the media industry to join this event, because not only are they getting a chance to be our co-advocates, they will also be giving hope to people living with HIV/Aids, that they are not alone in the fight against this disease," said Garcia.

For details, call ASP at 536-5509, 536-5694, fax 536-5512 or e-mail aidsphil@pacific.net.ph.

INTEL CEO CONFERRED HONORARY DEGREE

Intel Corp. chief executive officer Craig R. Barrett (left) is congratulated by University of the Philippines president Dr. Francisco Nemenzo after he was conferred an honorary doctorate degree in Science at the UP Science and Technology Training Center. Barrett's wife Barbara looks on. UP recognized Barrett for his contribution to the advancement of science and technology education throughout the world. During his visit to the Philippines, Barrett also inaugurated the country's second Intel Computer Clubhouse near the Gov. Ferrer National High School in Gen. Trias, Cavite, and presented to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo the Filipino winners of the 2002 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel Isef). Intel is the world's largest chip maker. For more information, log on to www.intel.com/pressroom.

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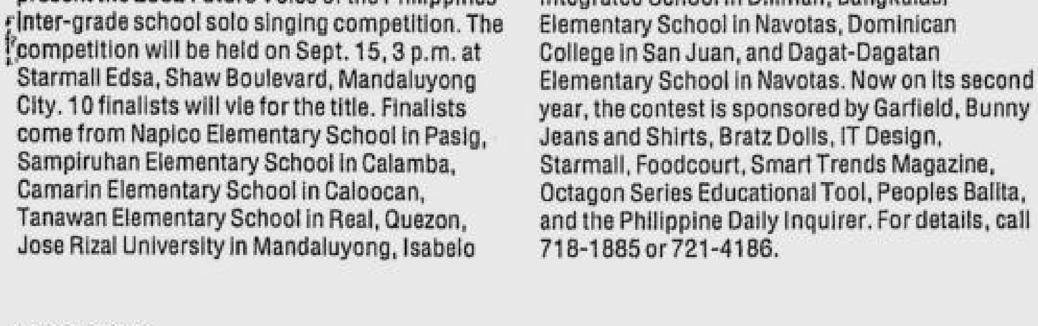
LOV 01

METRO BAKERS INC. SPONSORS 'LOVE' SEMINAR

Metro Bakers Inc., one of the franchisees of Dunkin' Donuts, sign the memorandum of agreement to sponsor Star Moon International's 'Love 101—Everything you wanted to know about love...but didn't know who to ask'. The seminar is slated for Sept. 14 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Makati Sports Club Main Ballroom. It will address topics in love, relationships, soul mates, twin flames, twin destiny and karmic relationships. Shown, seated, are resource speaker Henry Palacios, Tuchie Tesoro, district company manager of Metro Bakers Inc., Carrie Villamor, president of Star Moon International, and resource speaker Ruel Ruiz (resource speaker). Standing are Ana Malaca, finance manager, Metro Bakers Inc., and Franco Resulta, district company manager, Metro Bakers Inc.



FUTURE VOICE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Sunrise Entertainment Company and Starmall present the 2002 Future Voice of the Philippines inter-grade school solo singing competition. The competition will be held on Sept. 15, 3 p.m. at Starmall Edsa, Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City. 10 finalists will vie for the title. Finalists come from Napico Elementary School in Pasig, Sampiruhan Elementary School in Calamba, Camarin Elementary School in Caloocan, Tanawan Elementary School in Real, Quezon, Jose Rizal University in Mandaluyong, Isabelo delos Reyes Elementary School in Tondo, UP Integrated School in Diliman, Bangkulasi Elementary School in Navotas, Dominican College in San Juan, and Dagat-Dagatan Elementary School in Navotas. Now on its second year, the contest is sponsored by Garfield, Bunny Jeans and Shirts, Bratz Dolls, IT Design, Starmall, Foodcourt, Smart Trends Magazine, Octagon Series Educational Tool, Peoples Balita, and the Philippine Daily Inquirer. For details, call 718-1885 or 721-4186.

AMA awards scholarships

THE AMA Foundation Inc. awarded scholarship grants to freshmen and transferees at AMA Caloocan campus under the Subsidized Tuition (STF) Program, which guarantees as much as 50-percent discount in tuition and laboratory fees. In support of highly deserving but economically challenged students nationwide, the AMA Education System has launched the program early this year to make available to academically qualified students a world-class college education at AMA.

"An AMA College degree is the best investment in time and effort that a deserving student and his parents can make in preparing for the future. AMA Education System is determined to make this learning opportunity available to as many Filipinos as possible," says Amable C. Aguiluz IX, AMA Education System president, in his short address to the beneficiaries during their courtesy visit at the AMA head office in Quezon City.

The AMA Foundation Inc. provided varying levels of subsidies to cover tuition and other fees based on the parents' and students' financial need and capacity to pay. The STF program was limited by the grant allotted by the AMA Education System to the AMA Foundation. Thus a strict selection of qualified beneficiaries were undertaken to ensure its most prudent use. For this school year, 10,000 slots for scholarship were made available to incoming freshmen and transferees only. Aside from the STF program, AMA Education System also offers the AMA Student Loan Plan (SLP), the Study Now, Pay Later Program, the Academic Scholarship Grants and other student-friendly programs to provide financial assistance to all students.

In its continuing effort to remain Asia's leader in computer education, AMA has created these programs to open its doors and offer a world-class IT-based education to qualified and deserving Filipinos with varying financial status or capability. "We hope to see more students earning internationally recognized certificates and diplomas from AMA campuses through the implementation of tuition subsidized programs like this," added Aguiluz IX.

NEW COCOLIFE CHAIR

Cocolife, a leader in the insurance industry, recently welcomed its new board chair Noel C. Cabrera. Meeting the Cocolife corps of officers for the first time, Cabrera dined with them at the Cocolife Executive Dining Lounge. Cabrera was introduced to the group by Cocolife president Alfredo C. Tumacder. Cabrera stressed Cocolife's role in the development of the Philippine economy and its invaluable service to its many customers. Cabrera was the former Press Secretary of the Arroyo administration.

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1ST SET OF MR. WASH FRANCHISEES

Mr. Wash has further expanded its franchise reach to key cities nationwide. Jason Dy recently signed a franchise agreement contract for the Mr. Wash Zamboanga City branch with Arturo Eustaquio III of AE Colleges Foundation Inc. This event marks the 1st franchise of MR. Wash for 2002. It was immediately followed up with another Metro Manila franchise agreement signing for the Mr. Wash C. Raymundo Pasig branch, with Rowena O. de Leon of Pan Alpina Development and Management Corp. All washing machine and dryer requirements will be exclusively supplied by Admiral USA. Shown, from left, are Edgardo T. de Leon, Rowena O. de Leon and Jason Dy.

Clips

Training preparations meet set

A 4-day workshop that enables participants to prepare, conduct and evaluate a unit of instruction using the active, experiential learning approach has been scheduled by the EdTech Department of Meralco Foundation Inc (MFI) for Sept. 12, 13, 16 and 17. The course is designed to cover fundamental theory and training techniques for instructors and training officers responsible for in-house training in industries and institutions. The program aims to equip participants with skills in preparing and delivering a training session. For a detailed course outline, call Regie, Peter, Ladee or Jun of EdTech at telefax 631-2451, or e-mail edtech@mfi.org.ph.

ADBSA bazaar Sept. 14

THE ASIAN Development Bank Spouses' Association (ADBSA) will hold its annual bazaar on Sept. 14 at Sanctuario de San Antonio Parish Hall, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati. The ADBSA is an association of spouses of ADB professional staff coming from more than 40 countries. Its aim is to provide a wide range of opportunities for understanding and appreciation of the diverse cultural backgrounds of each member country. The "Bazaar in September" is aimed to raise funds for the social and welfare committees. It is one of the eagerly anticipated bazaars in Metro Manila. For inquiries, call 433-9774, 843-9516, 634-2926 and 631-0831.

'Intramuros Ngayon' photo contest

AN ON-THE-SPOT photo contest on Intramuros will be held Sept. 14. Dubbed "Intramuros Ngayon", the photo tilt is exclusive to bona fide college-level students pf any university or college in the country, whether residents of Manila or transients. Photos must be taken only on Sept. 14. Eligible subjects include, but are not limited to, the architecture, landscape, infrastructures, gardens, historical sites, residents, lifestyles, trades, and events occurring and found inside the walls of Intramuros. Participants must photograph on each roll a control image to be specified on the contest day. Submission of entries is on Sept. 20, not later than 6 p.m. at the Intramuros Administration Visitors Center, Fort Santiago. For details, call organizer Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation Inc (FPPFI) at 843-5341 or 813-7420.

Product FILES

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WHEN it comes to protecting your home from leaks, there is a better alternative brand makes waves among "enlightened" (read: wise) carpenters and handymen alike. FedSeal, the multi-purpose elastomeric sealant, solves water leaks on roofs, gutters, downspouts, P-traps, PVC pipes and even expensive plastic containers.

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FED SEAL
SEALANT

Phone firm disputes gov't claim on VAT leakage

By Abigail L. Ho

CELLULAR service provider Smart Communications Inc. stressed that its prepaid business was not an avenue for tax leakage and even urged the Department of Finance to look into its books.

This was in reaction to the DOF's estimate that the government lost an average of P6 billion in value-added taxes annually out of the mobile phone firms' practice of remitting the 10-percent VAT only after being reported sold by their dealers.

Smart's public affairs head Ramon Isberto said in an interview yesterday that it had always been Smart's practice to immediately remit the appropriate taxes to the government upon release of its prepaid card to distributors and not only upon the sale of these to end-users.

"Cellcards are not consigned items that we pay taxes for only when sold to actual subscribers. Our internal audit practice has always been immediately recognizing VAT and remitting this to the government after we sell our cards to our dealers. The point of sale is between us and the dealers so there's no leakage. The collection of VAT is actually already front-loaded," he said.

He added that the Bureau of Internal Revenue required local companies to submit quarterly reports, which included all sales transactions that took place during that timeframe.

In the case of Smart, these sales transaction records include dealings with the cellular service provider's prepaid card distributors.

Isberto disclosed that the BIR had been asking quite a number of questions lately about the company's prepaid business, especially in light of a pending bill in the House of Representatives that would require all companies that sold prepaid services—telecommunications firms and Internet service providers—to pay the 10-percent VAT up-front.

Smart's seven million subscriber base is predominantly composed of prepaid subscribers. Only around 5 to 10 percent of this are postpaid plan subscribers.

Because of this, Isberto said another tax, especially one that would be imposed on Smart's prepaid subscribers, would be another unnecessary burden.

"Prepaid subscribers usually do not belong to the more affluent bracket. Taxing prepaid cards is like taxing the poor. These people are not the ones who have money," he said.

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Top group fitness trends for 2002

GROUP fitness or group exercise is the politically correct term for what used to be known as "aerobics"-dance-type exercises à la Jane Fonda. Group fitness is a more appropriate term because today's "aerobic" classes have a much wider range of variety than Jane Fonda could ever imagine.

Many of them are not even aerobic anymore in the sense that they are not primarily cardiovascular. The only requirement for a fitness activity to be called group fitness is that it should have a leader (fitness instructor) and a group (class participants) who'll follow the instructions of the leader. Activities like tai chi and yoga are considered group exercises. So are boot-camp-type classes using push-ups and other body-weight exercises.

If you want to know what the top group fitness trends are, read the Group Fitness Trendwatch, published every year by Idea, the largest international association of fitness professionals. This report is based on information culled from fitness professionals all over the United States and Canada who work in a variety of facilities, including small gyms, universities, wellness centers, hospital-based gyms, large gym chains, corporate gyms and public gyms like the YMCA.

You might think that because Asian and European fitness professionals were not interviewed, the report is not as accurate. It still is. Let me explain how it works.

Based on the results of their Trendwatch, Idea chooses the workshops and seminars to be presented at the Idea World Fitness Convention. This annual convention has an attendance of around 4,000 people from 70 countries. The fitness professionals who attend then go back to their respective countries and introduce the new exercise programs.

So, in a sense, where the US fitness industry goes, so does the rest of the global fitness community. The Trendwatch is not only an assessment of what is currently happening in the fitness industry but is also a prediction of what is to come.

I have to point out that a trend in the US does not necessarily become a trend in a country like the Philippines if it is dependent on expensive equipment. A good example is spinning or group indoor cycling classes.

Spinning has not really caught on here except for a few big gyms (in the US, the trend peaked two years ago, went down and now has stabilized) because of the high cost of equipment and slow return on investment.

However, innovative exercise classes that do not require equipment or only call for inexpensive equipment can become popular all over the country. One such program is taebo or fitness kickboxing. Step also became wildly popular in the '90s because the step bench could be made out of wood.

> The Trendwatch is not only an assessment of what is currently happening in the fitness industry but is also a prediction of what is to come

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

Here are the Top 5 group fitness trends according to the Idea Trendwatch 2002.

Yoga

"Hands down, the No. 1 group activity among consumers today is yoga." The respondents in the survey credit the Sept. 11 event as instrumental in making people more interested in learning yoga. There is more demand for fitness-based yoga and hybrid yoga classes (yoga combined with another type of exercise like step aerobics) because the "pure" yoga classes are full (there's a shortage of "pure" yoga teachers) and many people are turned off by New Age jargon and philosophies often taught in these classes. Fitness-based yoga teachers are stepping in to fill the demand.

Pilates

The second-place winner is Pilates. Not only is this a confirmation of the trend toward mind-body forms of exercise but it is also an indication of the influence of media coverage (many Hollywood celebrities do Pilates).

Mat-based Pilates classes are more popular than equipment-based classes because they are cheaper and do not require as much space. Pilates-type abdominal exercises are also being incorporated into regular group exercise classes as more people are recognizing the holistic benefits of Pilates as compared to traditional ab work.

Core conditioning

The fitness industry has been extolling the virtues of core conditioning or "core functional training" for a few years now. This type of exercise develops balance as well as core strength (abdominal and lower-back muscles) using one-sided body weight exercises, balance boards, medicine, stability balls. It usually mimics movements done in daily living and sports, thus the reference to "functional." The survey respondents again credit the influence of media coverage in making this exercise popular with the general public.

Personal training

Personal training has nothing to do with group fitness classes, but it was given the fourth place in the survey because it was noted that many participants are now using the services of a personal trainer to achieve better results. The survey respondents observed that a slow economy has made people more careful with how they spend their money, and many have realized that while personal training can be expensive, they get more value for their money if they get the results they are looking for.

Combination classes

The popularity of combination or hybrid classes is a reflection of time-starved and easily bored fitness participants, Idea says.

This group class can be a combination of any two kinds of exercises like kickboxing and yoga, step and strength training, Latin aerobics, Pilates, etc.

TOP/ p.C3

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

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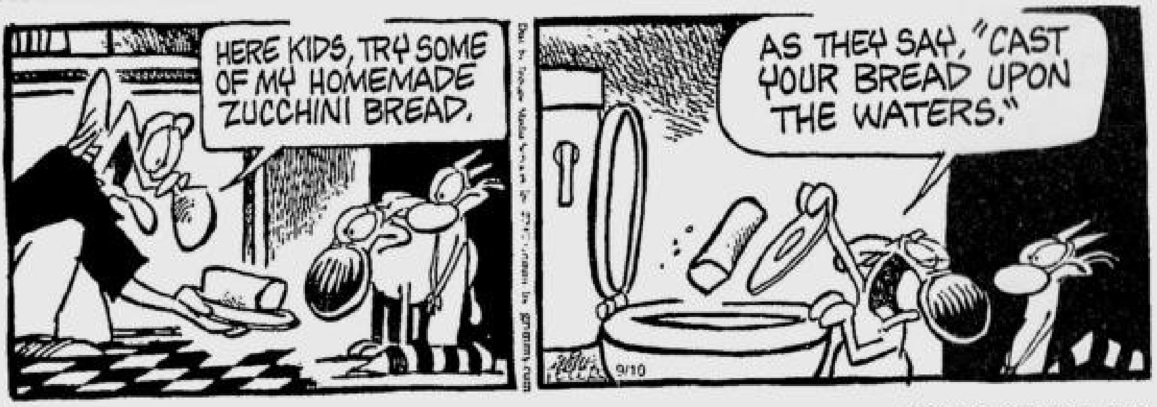
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS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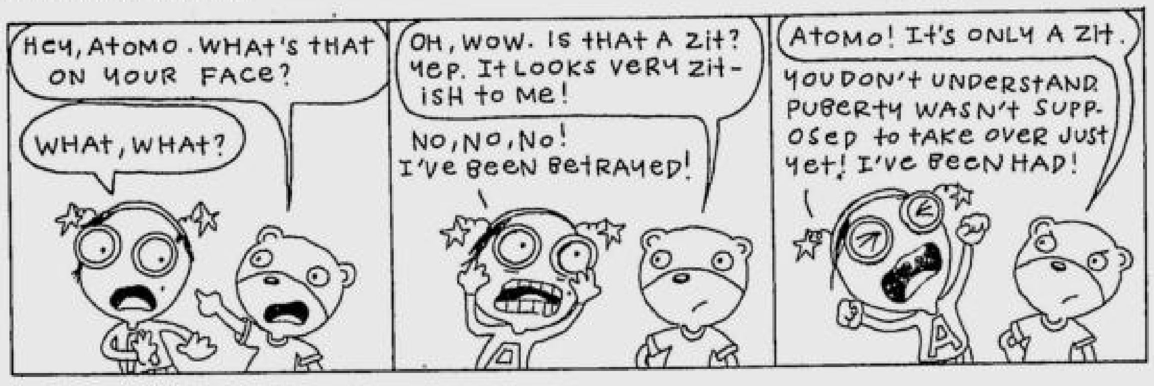
AS THEY SAY, "CAST YOUR BREAD UPON THE WATERS."
9/10

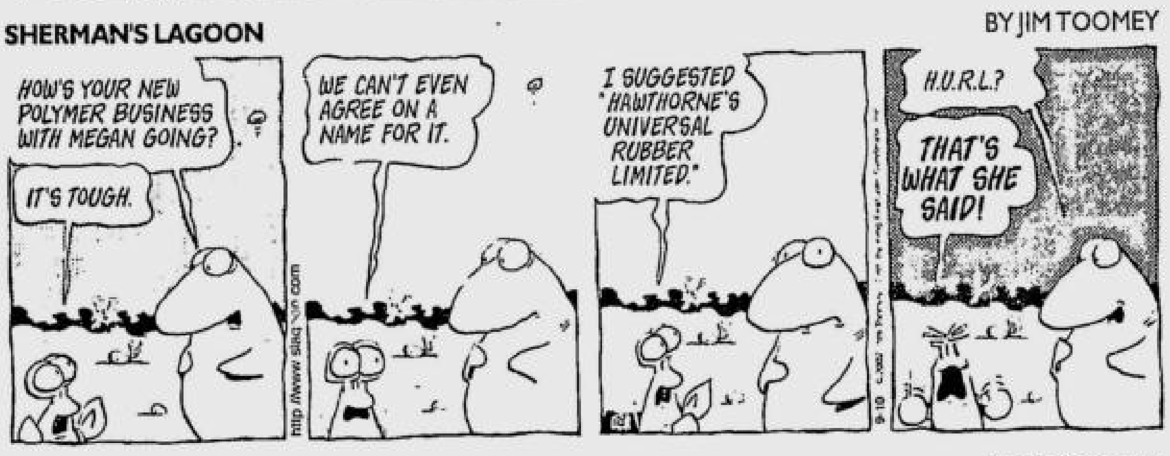
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, Atomo. What's that on your face?
What, what?
Oh, wow. Is that a zit? Yep. It looks very zit-ish to me!
No, no, no! I've been betrayed!
Atomo! It's only a zit.
You don't understand. Puberty wasn't supposed to take over just yet! I've been had!

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY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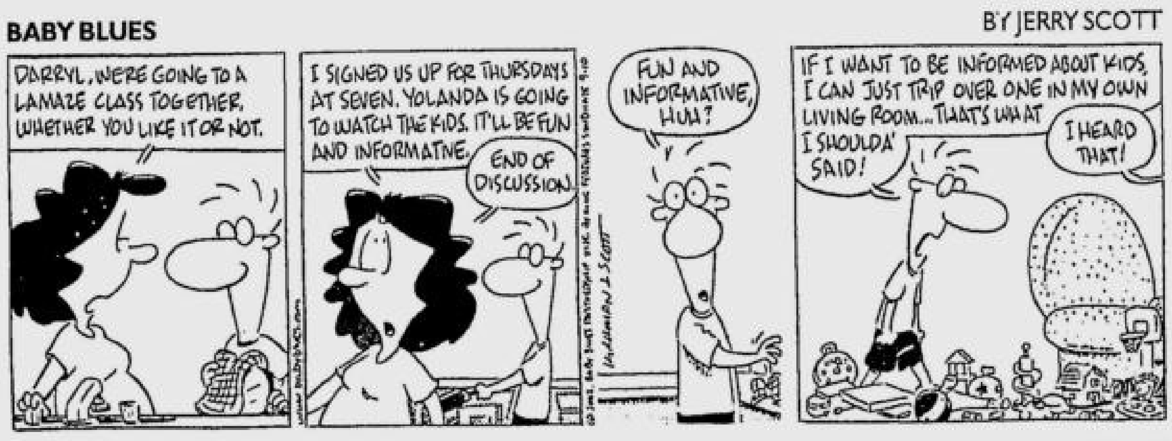
IT'S TOUGH.
WE CAN'T EVEN AGREE ON A NAME FOR IT.
I SUGGESTED "HAWTHORNE'S UNIVERSAL RUBBER LIMITED."
H.U.R.L.?
THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID!
http://www.slagoon.com
9-10

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


DARRYL, WE'RE GOING TO A LAMAZE CLASS TOGETHER, WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT.
I SIGNED US UP FOR THURSDAYS AT SEVEN. YOLANDA IS GOING TO WATCH THE KIDS. IT'LL BE FUN AND INFORMATIVE.
END OF DISCUSSION.
FUN AND INFORMATIVE, HUH?
IF I WANT TO BE INFORMED ABOUT KIDS, I CAN JUST TRIP OVER ONE IN MY OWN LIVING ROOM... THAT'S WHAT I SHOULDA' SAID!
I HEARD THAT!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Amy Irving, Jose Feliciano, Miranda Wilson, Roger Maris

Happy Birthday: This is the year to take your ideas, along with your fortitude, and make things happen. You will be in demand this year, so put an offer on the table and approach someone who can support your efforts. Your numbers are 8, 12, 20, 27, 35, 39

ARIES (March 21-April 19): This is not the day to force personal issues. Look at your own motives before challenging someone else. This can be a trying day if you don't stay calm and think things through.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will have positive interaction with colleagues who have the same interests you have. Don't hesitate to join an organization that will give you greater strength in your industry.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Turn your day into an exciting adventure. Plan to go to a comedy theater or dance club with friends or out for an intellectual chat with people you respect.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): Your tendency to think that something will go wrong may get on the nerves of everyone around you. Being down all the time will not lead to popularity. Turn your mood around.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Opportunities to get out with friends will be informative and fun. You need a break from your everyday routine. Being active will motivate you to do even more.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can make financial gains as long as you are mindful of what is happening with your investments. You have to participate; leaving your finances up to someone else will lead to questionable occurrences.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): This can be a great day if you busy yourself with fun-filled activities involving the people you enjoy. If you have too much time on your hands you may discover that little things will start to bother you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Stick to a one-on-one encounter that will lead to a talk that should solve any problems you've been facing. Secret enemies may try to damage your reputation, but it will probably backfire.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Relationships appear to be good, especially those you develop through environmental groups. Be honest about your likes and dislikes. You don't want to give anyone the wrong impression.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You won't see things clearly today, which could easily lead to irreversible changes. You may need an objective point of view from a close friend.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Talk to important people about your plans. Your high energy will captivate individuals interested in what you are doing. If you are determined, you will accomplish what you set out to do.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let investments or other money matters get to you today. Sit tight and pour your efforts instead into making your place a little nicer or taking better care of yourself. You know you're worth it.

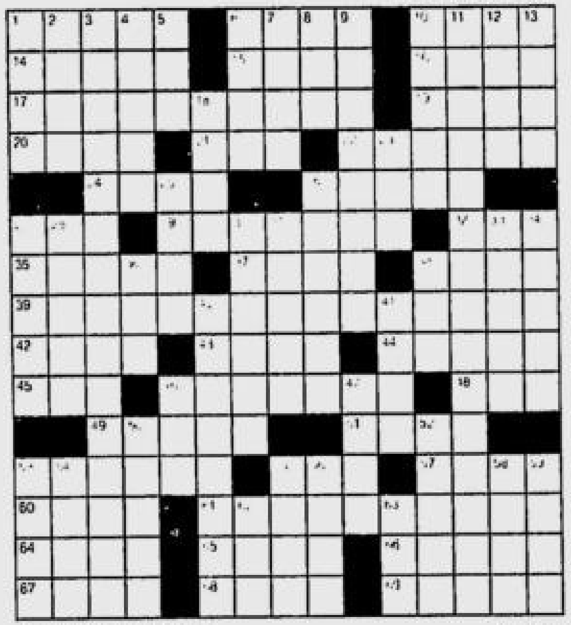
Birthday Baby: You will be the leader no matter what you do. Your intent will always be to do what's best for everyone. You'll be able to see all sides of any issue.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Hold fast
6 Pilgrimage to Mecca
10 Racetrack figures
14 "Peanuts" character
15 Sea eagle
16 Suitor
17 State bird?
19 Legendary
20 Dry ravine in Africa
21 Want __
22 Watery impact
24 Call from baby
26 Seat
27 Boxing great
29 Iniquitous
32 Scot's cap
35 Medicated
37 Declare
38 Rounds or clips
39 State bird?
42 Part of the eye
43 Speech subtlety
44 Dunkable treat
45 Bird's beak
46 Integrity
48 Attempt
49 Muslim holy men
51 Building wings
53 Caspian sturgeon
55 Period of note
57 Particle
60 Revise text
61 State bird?
64 Feed the kitty
65 Hawaiian port
66 Of an ecological sequence
67 Calendar units
68 Lambaste
69 Prepared to propose

DOWN
1 Talon
2 Robert M. Pirsig novel
3 Irrelevancy
4 Region on the Nile
5 Org. founded by Juliette Low
6 Foremost position
7 Circle parts
8 Genetic letters
9 Twangy instrument
10 Old manuscript symbols
11 Emporium
12 Raised platform
13 Of this kind
18 Queen's address
23 Buddy
25 Skirt style
26 Thin pancakes
27 Govt. in power
28 Longest river of France
30 Bricklayers
31 Sheeplike
33 Love affair
34 "__ Python's Flying Circus"
36 Superman's letter
38 In the past
40 Shows intestinal fortitude
41 Pastoral poem
46 Shrew
47 Rip
50 Muffles
52 Heavily burdened
53 Rosary piece
54 __ St. Vincent Millay
55 First lady of scat
56 Sufficient space
58 Roundish shape
59 Thaw
62 Lubricate
63 Inquire

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL

9/10/02

Monday's Puzzle Solved

H	A	R	E	M	■	D	E	L	I	■	D	E	B	T
A	L	I	C	E	■	E	L	A	N	■	A	R	I	E
M	E	L	O	N	■	M	A	T	A	■	T	O	T	S
S	E	E	■	S	T	O	L	E	N	B	A	S	E	S
■	■	■	B	A	I	T	■	N	E	A	■	■	■	■
S	P	C	A	■	G	I	S	T	■	S	P	A	S	M
U	R	A	L	■	R	O	I	■	F	I	E	S	T	A
P	U	R	L	O	I	N	E	D	L	E	T	T	E	R
E	N	T	E	R	S	■	N	E	Y	■	R	E	L	Y
R	E	A	T	A	■	M	A	L	I	■	O	R	E	S
■	■	■	■	C	P	A	■	E	N	O	L	■	■	■
P	O	A	C	H	E	D	E	G	G	S	■	S	P	A
A	R	G	O	■	N	C	A	A	■	A	S	W	A	N
T	E	E	N	■	N	A	S	T	■	G	U	A	R	D
H	O	S	S	■	S	P	E	E	■	E	M	P	T	Y

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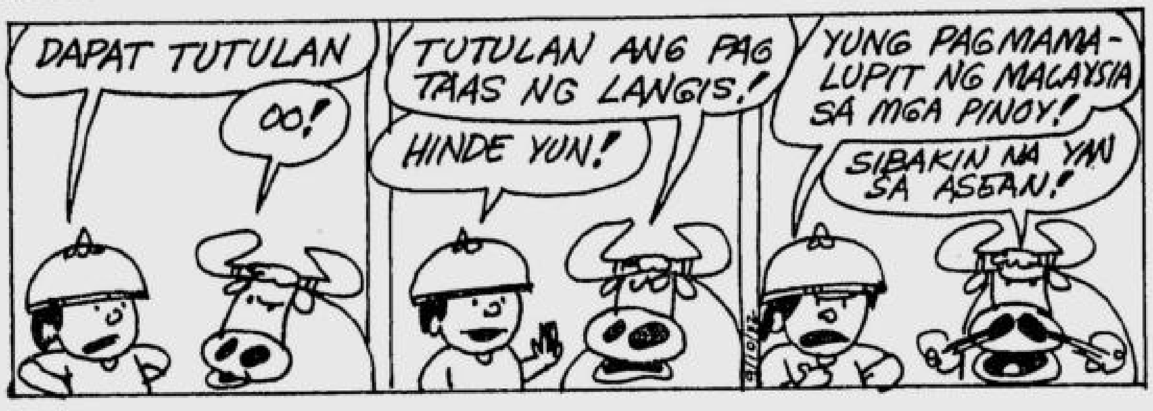
9/10/02

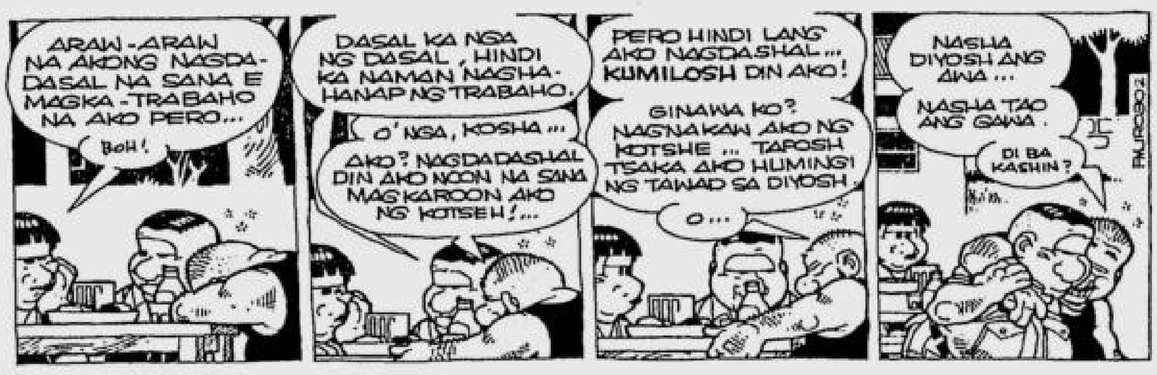
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DAPAT TUTULAN
OO!
TUTULAN ANG PAG TAAS NG LANGIS!
HINDE YUN!
YUNG PAGMAMALUPIT NG MALAYSIA SA MGA PINOY!
SIBAKIN NA YAN SA ASEAN!

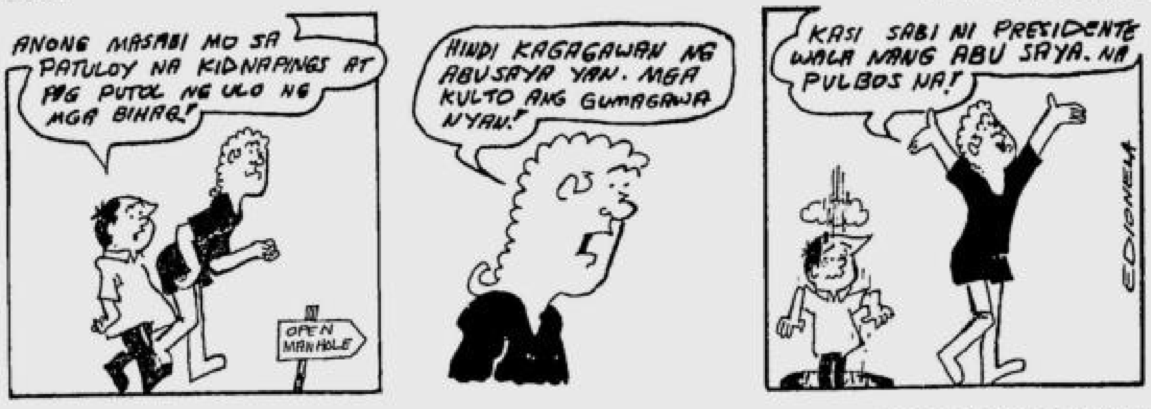
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ARAW-ARAW NA AKONG NAGDADASAL NA SANA E MAGKA-TRABAHO NA AKO PERO...
BOH!
DASAL KA NGA NG DASAL, HINDI KA NAMAN NAGHAHANAP NG TRABAHO.
O' NGA, KOSHA...
AKO? NAGDADASHAL DIN AKO NOON NA SANA MAGKAROON AKO NG KOTSEH!...
PERO HINDI LANG AKO NAGDASHAL... KUMILOSH DIN AKO!
GINAWA KO? NAGNAKAW AKO NG KOTSHE... TAPOSH TSAKA AKO HUMINGI NG TAWAD SA DIYOSH.
O...
NASHA DIYOSH ANG AWA...
NASHA TAO ANG GAWA.
DI BA KASHIN?

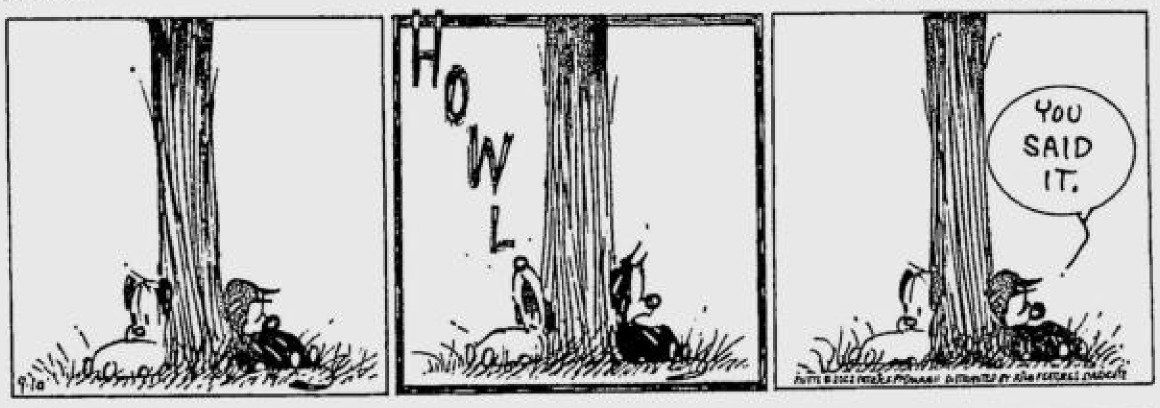
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANONG MASABI MO SA PATULOY NA KIDNAPINGS AT PAG PUTOL NG ULO NG MGA BIHAG?
OPEN MANHOLE
HINDI KAGAGAWAN NG ABUSAYA YAN. MGA KULTO ANG GUMAGAWA NYAN.
KASI SABI NI PRESIDENTE WALA NANG ABU SAYA. NAPULBOS NA!
EDIONELA

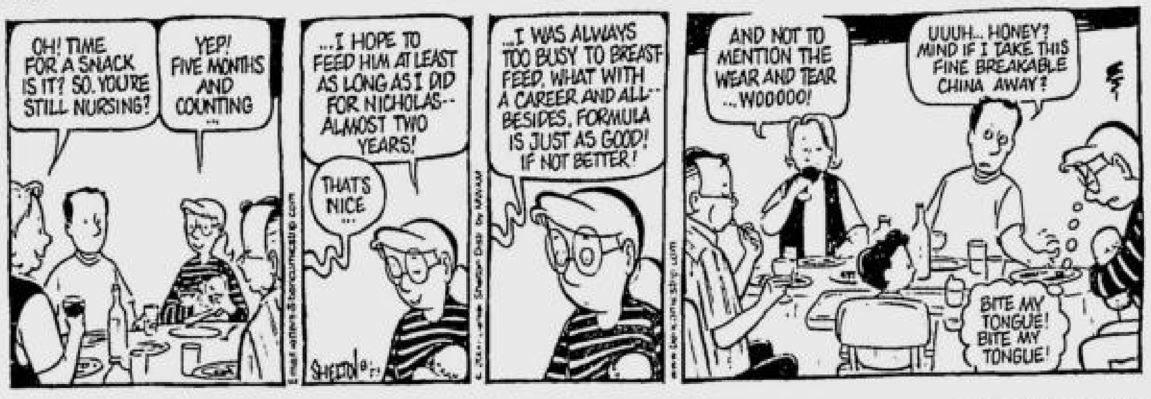
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HOWL
YOU SAID IT.

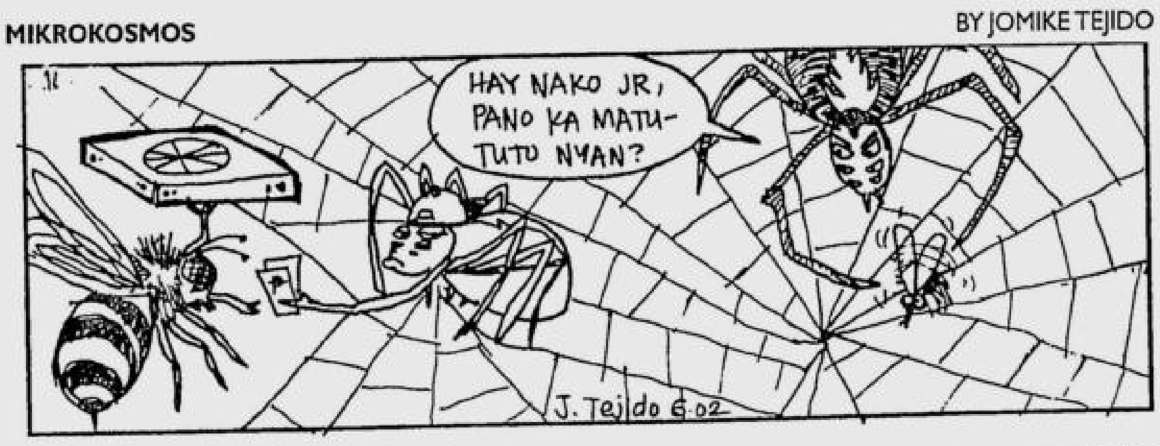
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


OH! TIME FOR A SNACK IS IT? SO, YOU'RE STILL NURSING?
YEP! FIVE MONTHS AND COUNTING...
...I HOPE TO FEED HIM AT LEAST AS LONG AS I DID FOR NICHOLAS-- ALMOST TWO YEARS!
THAT'S NICE...
...I WAS ALWAYS TOO BUSY TO BREAST-FEED, WHAT WITH A CAREER AND ALL-- BESIDES, FORMULA IS JUST AS GOOD! IF NOT BETTER!
AND NOT TO MENTION THE WEAR AND TEAR ...WOOOOO!
UUUH... HONEY? MIND IF I TAKE THIS FINE BREAKABLE CHINA AWAY?
BITE MY TONGUE! BITE MY TONGUE!

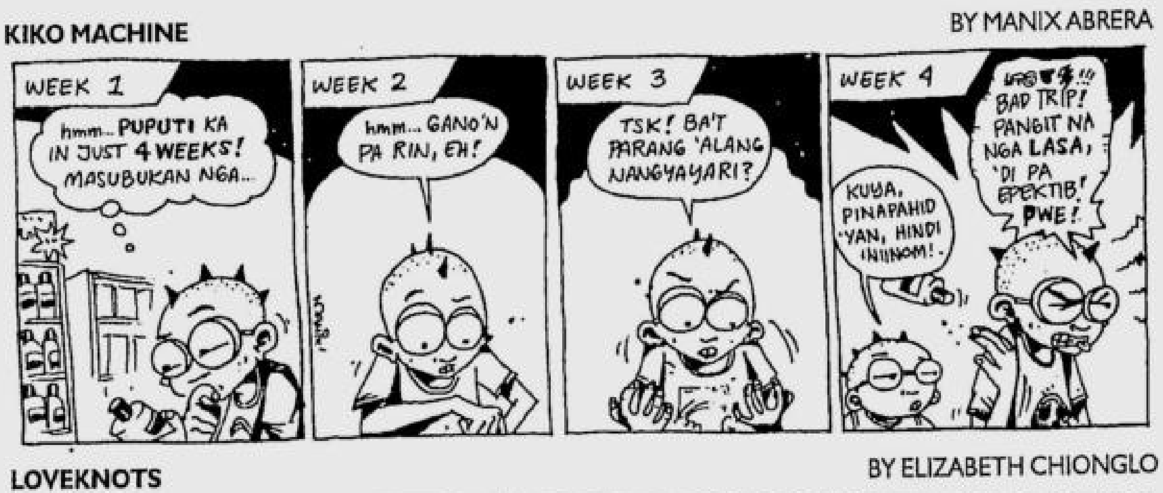
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


HAY NAKO JR, PANO KA MATUTUTO NYAN?
J. Tejido 6.02

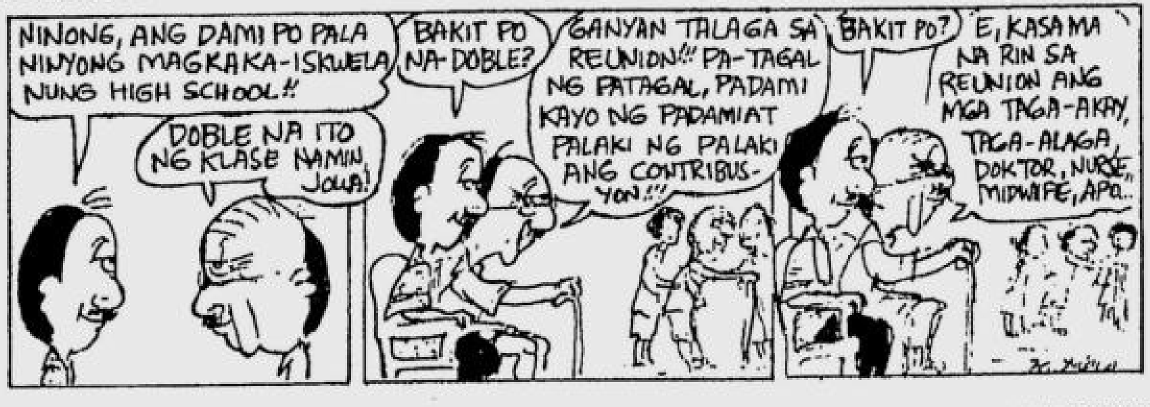
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


WEEK 1
hmm.. PUPUTI KA IN JUST 4 WEEKS! MASUBUKAN NGA...
WEEK 2
hmm... GANO'N PA RIN, EH!
WEEK 3
TSK! BA'T PARANG 'ALANG NANGYAYARI?
WEEK 4
BAD TRIP! PANGIT NA NGA LASA, 'DI PA EPEKTIB! PWE!
KUYA, PINAPAHID 'YAN, HINDI INIINOM!

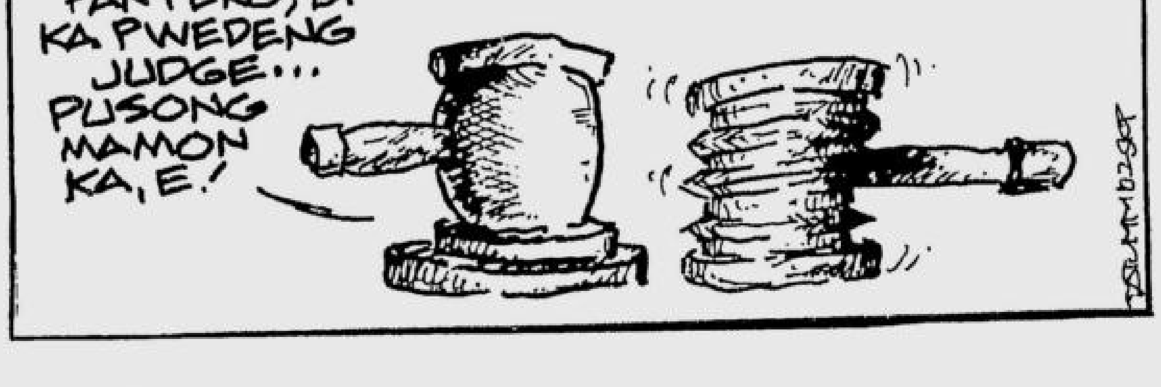
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

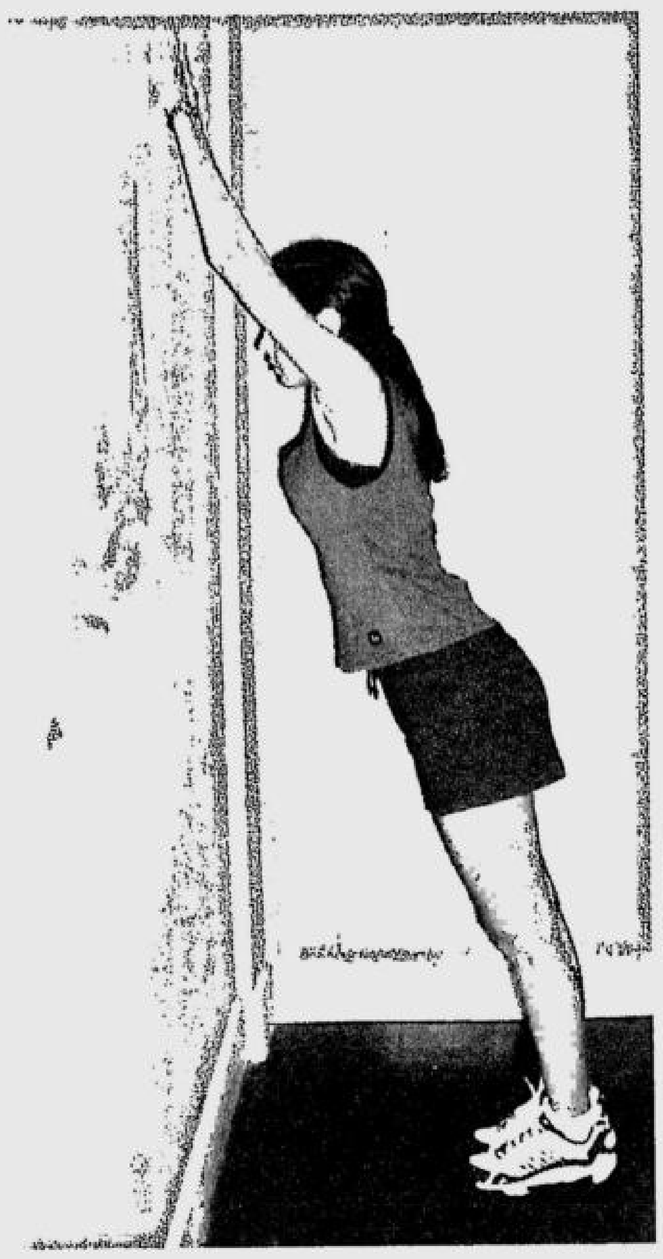

NINONG, ANG DAMI PO PALA NINYONG MAGKAKA-ISKWELA NUNG HIGH SCHOOL!
DOBLE NA ITO NG KLASE NAMIN, JOLA!
BAKIT PO NA-DOBLE?
GANYAN TALAGA SA REUNION!!! PA-TAGAL NG PATAGAL, PADAMI KAYO NG PADAMI AT PALAKI NG PALAKI ANG CONTRIBUSYON!!!
BAKIT PO?
E, KASAMA NA RIN SA REUNION ANG MGA TAGA-AKAY, TAGA-ALAGA, DOKTOR, NURSE, MIDWIFE, APO...

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


PANYERO, DI KA PWEDENG JUDGE... PUSONG MAMON KA, E!

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



Upper-back wall stretch

STRETCHES the muscles of your upper back. This feels especially good if you have been sitting for a long time while working at a desk.

Equipment:
Wall

Exercise technique:
Stand an arm's length away from a wall with your feet together. Keeping your heels on the floor, slowly walk your fingers up the wall as you start to lean your body forward. Hold for 10-20 seconds. Repeat if necessary.

Performance tips:
Keep your abdominal muscles tight to prevent your lower back from sagging. Avoid holding your breath as you hold the stretch.

Unwanted psychic perceptions and paranormal disturbances

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

LET me devote this column to two letters involving unwanted psychic perceptions and paranormal disturbances in the house.

The first comes from a 32-year-old businesswoman who said she's a "logical and God-fearing person."

Since childhood, she has been hearing things others couldn't hear, like someone calling her, a baby crying, even someone digging in the early hours of the morning when no one was there. She also hears deafening noises of a bamboo falling, coins and glasses clattering.

She had also seen a ghost and a woman in white gown with her head bowed and floating like a smoke-filled image. A friend of hers, who was a clairvoyant, had seen the same image.

Sometimes, she also sees a shadow moving in front of her, and one time, she saw a man's shadow at the door of her bedroom when she woke up. Lately, the manifestations have become more aggressive and scary. A spirit touched her feet twice while she was lying in bed.

She said she always prays hard when these happen. Somebody gave her a protection from them. But she is still scared and wants to know how she can stop dreaming, seeing and experiencing such negative things.

"I'm tired of hearing and seeing them," she says. "If these things exist for a reason, what is it?"

There are individuals, like this woman, who are sensitive to psychic forces and therefore can hear and see things that others cannot. That's why, many times, they are erroneously labeled as mentally ill or crazy. Most Western-trained psychiatrists classify such experiences as mere hallucinations or products of one's imagination.

But actually they can see and hear things other people cannot because they are clairvoyant and clairaudient. The first refers to the psychic ability to see things, and the other, the ability to hear things without the use of one's physical senses.

The fact that she can also see spirits or "ghosts" means she also has mediumistic tendencies. In other words, she can be a channel for communicating with the spirit world.

Since she is a very prayerful and religious person, her clairvoyant and mediumistic abilities are being enhanced or developed without her knowing and wanting it.

She asks how these psychic perceptions can be stopped, and my answer is, they can't be stopped. These psychic abilities are part of her personality makeup. She can channel or manage them but she cannot stop them. She can learn to control them but not to completely eliminate them from her life.

In themselves, such abilities are not bad. If properly channeled or managed, they can even help her understand herself and others better. I suggest to people like her to read books about these powers or attend seminars conducted by competent persons to develop them properly and systematically.

Interfering entities

The other letter comes from another reader who has been encountering incidents and manifestations in her mother's house.

"My parent's house is located in San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City. My Lolo and Lola were its first owners. The manifestations started about three weeks ago. First were the apparitions of a white lady, black lady and man in black. After the first week, things/objects started moving. First to move was the incense I placed on the altar, then, on the day that my brother was supposed to fetch the priest, the light at the altar exploded.

"More movements of objects followed, then came nightmares. The first to experience a nightmare was my brother, then one of our helpers, my sister-in-law, then another maid. Another incident was when I saw three pictures of my mom with her face erased. Two days later, our family picture, which was in my parents' room, was thrown in the living room.

"The most recent was when a glass exploded in our living room. As of now, nobody has investigated the object that exploded, but the glass pieces are still scattered around the living room. Nobody wants to clean it because one of the maids had another nightmare. She dreamt of a big man who told her that if she dared clean the broken glasses, *'kukunin siya.'*"

She relates that they had consulted several persons with the gift of spirit discernment. One of them "pictured a woman murdered by her husband, including their two children who saw the killing." The name of the murdered woman was revealed.

They were advised to research on the family tree and history of the house, which was built in the 1950s. They were the first owners, but the murdered woman could be the previous owner of the lot.

Another priest told them that someone could have placed a curse on the family because of so much anger and hatred, which "opened the gate for these evil spirits to enter."

She says she doesn't know what to do anymore or whom to call in matters like this. They were told to act on this as soon as possible.

Well, obviously, there is something that needs to be done fast to rid the house of interfering entities. But first, we must determine what types of spirits are doing those things and why. There are so many things this letter writer left unanswered.

The following are only some of the questions we have to know: Where exactly is the house located? When did these paranormal manifestations start? What events or changes preceded these manifestations? Were there changes that took place in the household, for example, death, a newly hired household helper, or a new family member who lives with them? Any strange visitors before these strange things happened?

Who in the household are the targets of these manifestations? In other words, to whom do these spirits manifest themselves most often or most violently? Who among them do not experience anything at all even if they stay in the house? Who are these people?

What is the neighborhood like? Is the house near a cemetery, church or hospital? Are there plenty of trees around the house?

The above are only some of the questions that should be asked to make a proper diagnosis or evaluation of what's really going on.

Another is to call a person who can see and talk to spirits to visit the house—a clairvoyant, a medium or exorcist. Only then can something be done about these strange happenings.

Note: If readers wish a personal answer to their letters, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelop. Otherwise they will be answered in this column.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City, or e-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit my new website at http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

Top group fitness trends for 2002

From page C1

Runners-up

The other exercise classes that are increasing in popularity are classes specifically for senior citizens, stability-ball classes, group strength training (using dumbbells, barbells, or rubber bands), stretching classes, sports-specific classes, kids-specific classes, other mind-body formats like tai chi and dance-based classes (Nia, ballet workouts, African, Brazilian and salsa classes were specifically mentioned).

What's declining in popularity?

Trendwatch says the two programs that are showing the biggest declines in popularity are kickboxing and martial-arts-based aerobics. The main reason given by the respondents to explain this downturn is the number of injuries experienced by instructors and participants alike.

Boxing-based classes (using punching bags and gloves) are also less in demand for the same reason. The respondents believe this alarming rate of injury is due to overuse (doing too many classes in a week) and improper form.

If yoga instructors (both the pure and fitness-based kinds) aren't careful, yoga classes could suffer the same fate in a few years. Already, there are reports from sports medicine doctors of an increasing number of people seeking medical help for yoga-related injuries.

Lastly, mixed-impact aerobics, or what is more commonly known in the Philippines as "high-low aerobics" (the type popularized by good old Jane Fonda), is also going through a decline because the choreography has become too complicated. New gym members are intimidated and turned off by the complexity of the movements. The same can be said for step aerobics.

I hope the decline of kickboxing, high-low and step doesn't happen here in the Philippines, because they are cheap, effective and fun ways to stay fit.

However, if instructors don't do something about safety and complex choreography issues, the same thing will eventually occur here.

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines will hold a fitness seminar on Sept. 21 at the Bahay ng Alumni building, UP Diliman. Topics for gym instructors are "Why Women Gain Weight," "Preventing Foot and Ankle Injuries," "Exercise and Infections" and "All about Cellulite." Topics for group exercise are "Kickboxing," "Latin Aerobics," "Stretch and Tone" and "High-Low Impact." Novice instructors can join a seminar on "How to Teach a Fusion Mind-Body Class" (a review of basic yoga and Pilates moves). Call 850-7647.

Watch "In Fitness & In Health" on Studio 23 Mondays to Fridays, 6-6:30 a.m.

For questions, past articles and exercises, go to www.tinajuanfitness.com

E-mail the author at fitness@ibm.net

Brain tumor center now open

ST. Luke's Medical Center's Comprehensive Brain Tumor Center recently held its formal opening at Annex III, 4/F, main hospital building in Quezon City. Established under the Institute for Neurosciences and director Dr. Joven R. Cuanang, the St. Luke's Comprehensive Brain Tumor Center is headed by neurosurgeon Manuel M. Mariano.

The St. Luke's Comprehensive Brain Tumor Center has a steering committee whose members represent major services involved in the diagnosis and treatment of brain tumor, such as Drs. Prescilla Caguioa, Miriam Calaguas, Mayvelyn Gose, Rafael Joson, Ruby Li, Ma. Victoria Manuel, Edwin Muñoz, Jonas Santiago and Jaime Zamuco.

The first and only brain tumor center in the country, it provides a comprehensive and coordinated care for adult and pediatric patients with brain and spinal cord tumor, whether primary or secondary. It also caters to patients with neurologic complications of cancer.

The St. Luke's Comprehensive Brain Tumor Center's mission is to diagnose brain and spinal tumors correctly and efficiently by providing state-of-the-art modalities, resources and support necessary for patients and families to meet the challenges of living with a brain tumor.

The Center offers a wide range of services, encompassing diagnostic, therapeutic, and supportive areas of care. It aims to advance the management of brain tumors by presenting the public with a more progressive method of treatment, aided by research, clinical care and support services.

A brain tumor board, comprised of specialists in the fields of neurology, neurosurgery, medical oncology (adult and pediatric), radiation oncology, neuroradiology, nuclear medicine, neuropathology, psychiatry, pain management specialists and nursing will provide an interdisciplinary approach of quality health care to patients.

Call 723-0101/0301 local 4302.

Take Charge Doc!
Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.
MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA every Tuesday.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)
I am a single mother who recently gave birth to my first child. Is he eligible to be enrolled under our company's corporate program?
If your company allows enrollment of dependents, then he is eligible. You would however, need to submit a copy of your son's birth certificate together with his endorsement for enrollment. Do note, that from your present "single" status, you will be reclassified under the eligibility provisions of married employees. Thus, parents and/or brothers and sisters who are enrolled as your dependents (eligible dependent-enrollees for single employees), will be automatically removed upon the endorsement of your son. You are also given 30 days from your son's birth date to enroll him.

Meet your MEDICard Team

For more than seven years now, Dr. Florianne Feliza F. Valdes has been addressing the needs of MEDICard members at Medical City General Hospital. She is frequently referred to by her patients and colleagues as Doc Rhiza. She finished Medicine at UERM and specializes in Pediatrics, where she received her residency training at UERM-MMC. In 1999, she finished her subspecilization residency for Ambulatory Pediatrics, which she took at the Montefiou Medical Center-Albert Einstein College of Medicine, in New York, USA. She is also a Diplomate of the Philippine Pediatric Society, a Board of Director of the Philippine Ambulatory Pediatric Association and a member of the Society of Adolescent Medicine. You may visit her for your consultation needs at Room 606, Medico Bldg. of MCGH, every Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 11 AM to 1 PM, every Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 AM to 12 noon and on Saturdays from 9 AM to 1 in the afternoon.

Contract Signing

GLOBAL OLYMPIA INTERNATIONAL LTD., INC. formalized its partnership with MEDICard in a contract signing held recently at the Bayview Park Hotel Manila. Global Olympia is MEDICard's marketing arm in Hong Kong. Shaking hands to the newly formed union were (L-R) Mr. Henry G. Lobrin (Global-President/CEO) and Dr. Nicanor D. Montoya (MEDICard President). Witness to the event were (L-R) Mr. Jun T. Banaga (Global-Managing Director) and Mr. Luis S. Montoya (MEDICard EVP & GM). The alliance gave rise to an HMO program, which caters to the health needs of the dependents in the Philippines of OFWs based in Hong Kong.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

For inquiries on individual or family membership, dial 840-2020 local 2017. For group or corporate membership, dial local 2049 and look for a membership consultant. For Cebu Sales Office call (032) 253-5031; For Davao Sales Office call (082) 224-6931/305-3386.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com

MEDICard is the first and only HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asian region to be ISO 9002 certified.
ISO 9002

A dieter's guide to fine dining

Part II

Cory Quirino

PREVENTION, rather than cure, has become the operative word in keeping one's body healthy. In the context of wellness, food is "not only the best alternative medicine, but one of the most effective preventive measures" (Nutrition Almanac, Lavon J. Dunne, National Book Store). Therefore, if food should be our medicine, then what should we eat?

Macronutrients

The human body needs three macronutrients: carbohydrates, protein and fats. Energy supply is provided by carbo and fats while protein gives the structural component needed for the growth and repair of tissues. Any nutritionist will advise you to eat more in this order: carbohydrates, vegetables/fruits, fat, protein and sweets.

This is the reason why the Food Pyramid Guide was designed. We will take a closer look at the various kinds of food pyramids next week.

Where and what to eat without fear of abusing your body? Here are some of my choices.

Going vegetarian

A great way to detox your body is to cleanse your system through veggies only.

Indian—Café Bombay (tel. 819-2892): Potato with Okra (*aloobendi*), Eggplant Barta (roast eggplant), Potato with Cauliflower (*alooghobi*), Palakpaneer (spinach with cottage cheese) and Chapatti with Yogurt Dip.

Filipino/Mediterranean—Mother Sachi (tel. 897-8232): Vegetarian buffet. Greens: Vegetarian barbecue and house specialties.

Light cuisine—Henry's (tel. 816-7874): Specialty fusion dishes like Masculine Green Salad with Chicken Liver, Blackened Tofu, 3 Fish Grill-Salmon, Tuna, Blue Marlin or Gindara, Mango Crêpe. Le Soufflé (tel. 887-5109): Roasted Shitake Mushroom and Tomato Salad, Wild Rice (risotto), Duck Confit and Passion Fruit Soufflé.

Japanese—Sugi (tel. 721-7111): Miso Soup, Radish Salad (my all-time favorite), Grilled Mackerel and Steamed Rice.

Chinese—Shang Palace (Makati Shangri-La, tel. 813-8888). Summer Palace (Edsa Shangri-La, tel. 633-8888): Vegetarian Dimsum, Fried Lapu-lapu/Prawns in Orange Sauce, Spinach in Garlic Sauce, and Taho with Lychee.

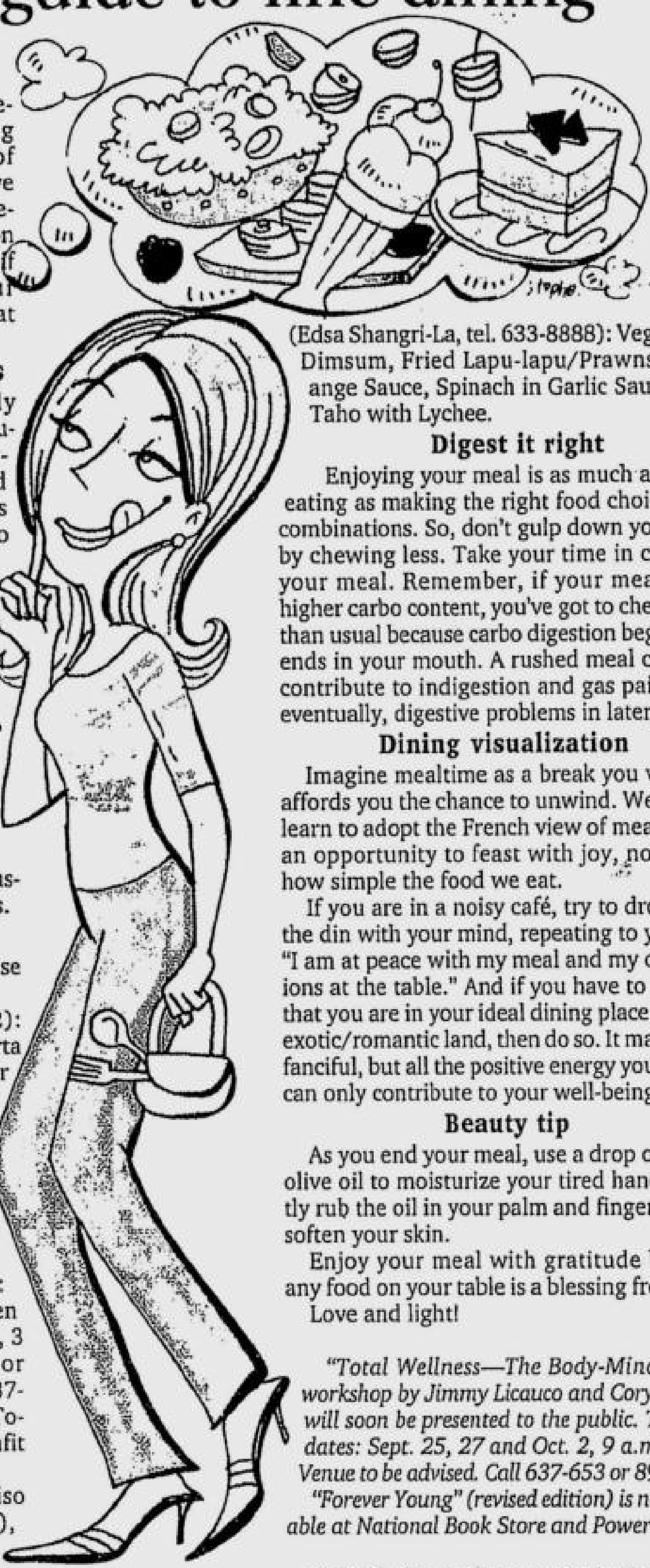


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Digest it right

Enjoying your meal is as much a part of eating as making the right food choices and combinations. So, don't gulp down your food by chewing less. Take your time in chewing your meal. Remember, if your meal has a higher carbo content, you've got to chew more than usual because carbo digestion begins and ends in your mouth. A rushed meal can only contribute to indigestion and gas pains and, eventually, digestive problems in later years.

Dining visualization

Imagine mealtime as a break you value. It affords you the chance to unwind. We should learn to adopt the French view of mealtime—an opportunity to feast with joy, no matter how simple the food we eat.

If you are in a noisy café, try to drown out the din with your mind, repeating to yourself: "I am at peace with my meal and my companions at the table." And if you have to pretend that you are in your ideal dining place in some exotic/romantic land, then do so. It may sound fanciful, but all the positive energy you radiate can only contribute to your well-being.

Beauty tip

As you end your meal, use a drop or two of olive oil to moisturize your tired hands. Gently rub the oil in your palm and fingers. It can soften your skin.

Enjoy your meal with gratitude because any food on your table is a blessing from God.

Love and light!

"Total Wellness—The Body-Mind-Spirit" workshop by Jimmy Licauco and Cory Quirino will soon be presented to the public. Tentative dates: Sept. 25, 27 and Oct. 2, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Venue to be advised. Call 637-653 or 892-6806.

"Forever Young" (revised edition) is now available at National Book Store and PowerBooks.

E-mail the author at coryquirino_fy@yahoo.com

Antidiabetic benefits of 'ampalaya' food supplement

A GROWING number of Filipinos suffering from diabetes are turning to a Philippine-made natural food supplement to help them control their blood sugar. Manufactured by Herbcare Corp., this product is made of 100-percent fruits and seeds of *ampalaya*, and is commercially available as a tea-like drink and capsules under the brand name of Charantia Ampalaya.

Fr. Edgar Abano, parish priest of the St. Francis Cabrini Catholic Church in New Jersey, US, says he and his mother drink Charantia regularly. "My blood sugar is now back to normal, and even when I cheat a little in my diet, it does not really shoot up like it did before," Father Abano said. Since his blood sugar has stabilized at a normal level, Father Abano's doctor has reduced his medication to half.

Ernie Zafra, who resides in Vacaville, California, says that after only two weeks of drinking Charantia, his blood sugar went down to normal and he now feels full of life, unlike before when he was always tired. "My wife and daughter also drink Charantia regularly. I've also asked all my friends to try this wonderful nature's product from our homeland."

Romeo Vincoy, a resident of Chicago, says his blood sugar used to range from 200-225. "A friend of mine gave me seven tablespoonfuls of Charantia that he got while vacationing in Cebu. After I consumed it in seven days, amazingly, my blood sugar went down to 148!" Vincoy also says that when he asked his brother in Manila to send him Charantia, he was surprised to learn that his brother has also been drinking Charantia.

FR. Edgar Abano

ERNIE Zafra

Charantia Ampalaya is the first *ampalaya* product registered with BFAD. It is also the only *ampalaya* product that has been clinically tried by independent diabetologists and proven safe and effective in the treatment of Type 2 diabetes mellitus.

Because of its antidiabetic benefits, Charantia has been prescribed by a growing number of doctors. Recently, it was officially endorsed by the Association of Municipal Health Officers of the Philippines, the national organization of doctors that run the country's network of municipal health centers. Charantia is now being exported to many countries, including the US, Europe and Japan.

Medicine donation campaign ongoing at malls

SM SHOPPERS are invited to donate their unopened and unexpired medicines to the less fortunate in SM Foundation's "Gamot Para sa Kapwa," a medicine donation campaign ongoing at all SM Supermalls until Sept. 28.

This is the fourth time the joint project—together with "Kapwa Ko, Mahal Ko" (the country's longest running public service television program), the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and the Manila Broadcasting Company (DZRH, Yes FM and Love Radio)—has been launched.

Last year's campaign raised more than P1.5-million worth of medicines. This had been distributed in 95 medical missions, which brought medical and dental services as well as child and maternal care, to 33,305 patients in poor remote barrios where health services and medicines are not readily available.

This year's "Gamot Para sa Kapwa" campaign hopes to bring medical missions to Bicutan as well as the provinces of Laguna, Cebu, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Pampanga and Bulacan.

Every donation entitles one to a cash coupon from Watson's Pharmacy. "Gamot Para sa Kapwa" donation booths are located on the upper ground floors of SM City-North Edsa, SM Centerpoint, SM Southmall, SM City Bacoor, SM City Manila, and the lower ground areas of SM City Fairview, SM City Cebu and SM City Iloilo.

Donations may also be made at "Gamot Para sa Kapwa" booths located on the 3/L bridgeway of SM Megamall, 2/F SM City Davao, and G/F SM City Pampanga.

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